Polk County Agriculture & Farmland Preservation Plan



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POLK COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

Over the past three decades, Polk County has experienced changes in agriculture and rural development. These changes are a result of rural development that is being experienced throughout the region and of growth pressures from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Both patterns have changed who lives in the County, where they work, and the loss of farmland. In many instances this growth has caused an increase in traffic and an increased strain on public facilities and school districts. While there has been some loss of agricultural land caused by new residential, commercial, and industrial development, growth has been only one factor in the transformation of the types of agriculture in Polk County.

Different parts of Polk County have experienced a reduction in the amount of agricultural land. At the same time, agriculture is still a substantial part of Polk County. The County is still predominantly rural and agriculture continues to be an important part of the economy and society. Despite the loss of farmland the total number of farms in the County has not significantly changed, but the type of agriculture in the County has changed. In the last three decades Polk County has been part of a nationwide trend of larger-sized commodity farms and smaller-sized value-added farms. There has been a decrease in the number of dairy farms, an increase in acres of corn and soybeans, a decrease in acres of hay, and a recent increase in direct market and organic farming. State and national agricultural policies, purchasing habits, agricultural practices, international trade, and commodity prices have been the major reasons why Polk County has seen changes in the type of agriculture.

This section is intended to fulfill the statutory requirements for both the farmland preservation plan, Chapter 91, Subchapter II, WI Statutes, and the agricultural element of the comprehensive plan, §66.1001(2), WI Statutes. It will explore the trends and future expectations of agriculture, the balance between growth and agriculture, and, to insure state certification of the new farmland preservation plan, will address the following requirements:

- All plans must clearly state the county's goals and policies related to:
 - o farmland preservation; and
 - agricultural development, including development of enterprises related to agriculture;
- Identification of farmland preservation areas; and
- The county's strategy to increase housing density outside of farmland preservation areas.

The project working group, Committee to Conserve Our Agricultural and Rural Resources (CCOARR), was made up of several community members. The mission of CCOARR is: To provide for and encourage the retention of farmland and our rural resources. The following is the list of CCOARR members:

Dennis CarsonBrad JohnsonGene SollmanMarvin CaspersonOrval JohnsonJose TrejoBruce ChristensenTed JohnsonDale WesterGary DadoMark KoppKeith Zygowicz

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Numerous public participation activities were held to provide ample opportunity for property owners, producers, agribusinesses, elected officials and citizens to provide input and comments during plan development and review.

Polk County began the process of updating its Farmland Preservation Plan at a public kickoff meeting on March 22, 2012. This meeting included presentations on the value of agriculture in Polk County and on the farmland preservation program and plan. A panel discussion with local experts explored a variety of topics related to farmland preservation, including: preservation tools, new markets for agricultural products, land use conflicts, and more. After a robust discussion, the attendees were offered an opportunity to participate in a citizen steering committee to guide the update of the farmland preservation planning process.

On April 12, 2012, the first meeting of the citizen steering committee was held. This citizen group met over a dozen times to guide the planning process and provide essential input throughout the planning process. At this first meeting, the group developed a name, Citizens for Conserving Our Agricultural and Rural Resources (CCOARR, pronounced "core"). They felt this to be a fitting name since it reflected their mission, as well as described the fact that they were the "core" group guiding the process. The CCOARR group also developed a mission statement, which is as follows: "The Mission of CCOARR is to provide for and encourage the retention of farmland and our rural resources."

Another key aspect to the plan update is how to determine what lands in the county would be eligible or not eligible for farmland preservation. One of the best known tools for determining such lands is known as the LESA (Land Evaluation Site Assessment) tool. More detailed information on the LESA can be found on page 3 of this document. This concept was introduced to the CCOARR group at this meeting. We discussed options that could be included in a LESA tool, such as: soil type, soil productivity, zoning of the parcel, proximity to non-farm land uses, and many more.

In addition to development of the LESA criteria, the CCOARR group assisted in the development of questions that would be used in the crafting of a citizen survey to obtain broad input for this process. Four workshops were held in July and August of 2012, to gather additional input for the development of the farmland preservation survey (Alden Town Hall, Georgetown Town Hall, Village of Frederic, and the Government Center in Balsam Lake). The questions and results from these workshops maybe seen in Appendix C. The results from these workshops were directly inputted into development of the survey by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Survey Research Center.

In October, 2012, the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls mailed surveys to a list of 407 agricultural stakeholders provided by Polk County. The purpose of this study was to gather opinions from agricultural stakeholders with respect to farmland preservation and agricultural issues in Polk County. Questions in the survey were based on information gathered from the public during a series of Farmland Preservation Workshops in 2012. The overall response rate was 36 percent (146 completed questionnaires). The results of the survey can be seen in Appendix A of this plan. The opinions that came from this survey were reviewed by CCOARR and used to develop goals, objectives, and policies for the plan.

All of the meetings related to the update of the Polk County Farmland Preservation plan were open to the public and notice was given of each meeting.

WEBSITE

The Polk County Land and Water Resources Department has hosted information regarding the process of updating the Farmland Preservation Plan on their webpage. Presentations, meeting agendas and notes, draft versions of the plan, and additional resources have all been made available online throughout this process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The draft of the Polk County Farmland Preservation Plan was available for review by the public for several months leading up to Land Conservation Committee meetings in which the plan was discussed. An official public hearing was held to obtain final input on the draft and where the Land Conservation Committee made any changes necessary and then recommend passage to the County Board by official motion. The plan has now been recommended and the County Board will vote on the passage of the updated Polk County Farmland Preservation Plan.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREA

The farmland preservation area was identified and designated using Polk County's Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) System and the future land use designations of local comprehensive plans. The process to designate these areas and develop a map is described in the next sections.

Land Evaluation Site Assessment System for Agriculture

In 1981, USDA NRCS developed a system for evaluating agricultural lands, Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA), which uses detailed considerations of soil capability and potential yields, and provides for the assessment of factors beyond soil productivity in the determination of agricultural potential. The system is now widely used throughout the U.S. The LESA system presents the opportunity to define agricultural lands that have the most production potential.

The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system is a point-based approach that is generally used for rating the relative value of agricultural land resources. In basic terms, a given LESA model is created by defining and measuring two separate sets of factors. The first set, Land Evaluation (LE), includes factors that measure the inherent soil-based qualities of land as they relate to agricultural suitability. The second set, Site Assessment (SA), includes factors that are intended to measure social, economic and geographic attributes that also contribute to the overall value of agricultural land. While this dual rating approach is common to all LESA models, the individual land evaluation and site assessment factors that are ultimately utilized and measured can vary considerably, and can be selected to meet the local or regional needs and conditions a LESA model is designed to address. The LESA methodology lends itself well to adaptation and customization in individual states and localities.

Also, in addition to ranking soils for agricultural potential, the LESA system can provide a systematic and objective way to evaluate and numerically rank soils for their relative value for any specific use. The advantage of the LESA system is that it is an objective, consistent and analytical tool to aid decision-makers in comparing agricultural sites based on their agricultural or development value. The LESA system is a valuable tool for determining the use with the least detrimental impact to the environment, economy and aesthetics. It can be used in conjunction with other pertinent information including public input, existing plans, maps, etc.

As part of this planning process, a LESA system was developed for Polk County by the CCOARR group. It was adjusted to meet the local soil conditions and site assessment concerns in Polk County. The Polk County LESA system is found in Appendix B.

Polk County used the LESA system to rank agricultural lands based on their agricultural value and as the first component in developing the Farmland Preservation Areas Map. There are five different categories for parcels: Farmland Preservation Areas (150-300), Areas Without Parcel/CLU Data, Lot Size Less Than 5 Acres, Future Land Use – Residential/Urban, and LESA Score < 150. In addition, future land use maps from local comprehensive plans are all available on the Polk County website. Each of these components and the associated maps are described and provided on the next few pages.

Land Evaluation (LE)

The Land Evaluation (LE) component to the LESA system is based on soils and their characteristics; it reflects soil productivity and the economic and environmental cost of producing a crop. The LE is generally stable and unchanging because soils change very slowly over time. The LE physical and chemical soil properties considered in the LE rating, either directly or indirectly, include: soil texture, soil erodibility, climate, wetness capacity, flooding, slope, rock fragments, available water capacity, pH (alkalinity versus acidity) and permeability.

In developing the system for Polk County, the LE was refined to take into effect the local soil conditions for Polk County.

The possible ratings for all soils in the county range from 0 to 100 points, higher ratings have a greater value for agriculture. Here is the breakdown of ratings by soil type for the LE for Polk County:

Table 1

Class	Class Score
1	100
2	95
3	90
4	80
5	60
6	50
7	40
8	10

Site Assessment (SA)

The Site Assessment (SA) measures non-soil characteristics and development pressure based on adopted plans and policies and other social, economic, and geographical attributes. The SA is dynamic and changes on a continual basis because there are regular changes in development, property ownership, roadway improvements, sewer expansions, etc. happening throughout an area.

The Polk County SA rating is based on eight factors. These factors range from 14 points to 10 points. These factors include: Number of contiguous acres in agriculture, Percent of land feasible for agriculture, Existing land use policy, Proximity to agricultural contracts or exclusive agricultural zoning, Surrounding land use, Percent of land zoned for agriculture within ½ mile radius, Surrounding property land use, Distance to a population center. Please see Polk County's LESA System, Appendix B, for more details.

The possible SA ratings range from 0 to 200 points; higher ratings have a greater value for agriculture. In developing the system for Polk County, the SA was refined to take into effect that forestry (maple syrup, lumber, etc.) is a significant agricultural use in the County, so forested areas are considered farmland.

Two of the SA factors, Future Land Use Policy on Existing Site and Future Land Use Policy on Adjacent Sites, necessitated creating a database of the future land uses in locally adopted comprehensive plans (town, village and city) and the County Comprehensive Plan. Because some local plan maps were composed of different information, including varied legends, colors, classes and terminology, it was necessary to use each individual community's Future Land Use Plan to tabulate data for the Site Assessment scoring. The local maps were used to score two questions in the Site Assessment portion of the LESA: Existing Land Use Policy and Surrounding Property Future Land Use.

Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA)

The two components of the system, Land Evaluation, LE, and Site Assessment, SA, add up to a possible 300 points. The LE has a potential of 100 points and the SA has a potential of 200

points. The final composite scores are depicted in the LESA map. Scores between 150 and 300 are classified as Farmland Preservation Areas. These sites are the most appropriate sites for farmland preservation. The lower composite scores, 0-150 are classified as Areas Not Recommended for Preservation and are shown in white. These sites are the poorest sites and/or most unrealistic sites for farmland preservation. There are also categories for parcels that are less than five acres in size and parcels that have a future land use of residential and/or urban. Due to existing local conditions in Polk County, not all parcels have land use data, so in those instances Common Land Unit (CLU) data was used, and those parcels are labeled on the map as well. The final LESA map follows land use and growth patterns as well.

Future Land Use – Rural Areas

The Farmland Preservation law (Chapter 91) requires that all lands planned for development in the next 15 years be excluded from the Farmland Preservation Area map. In a review of the future land use maps and narratives of the locally adopted plans, it was determined that parcels in the category Future Land Use – Residential/Urban are planned for development within the next 15 years. All the locally adopted plans and their respective maps can be found on the Polk County government website.

Farmland Preservation Areas Mapped

The Farmland Preservation Areas map, shown in Figure 31 of Appendix D, includes data from the LESA scores and data from local future land use plans. These scores used local comprehensive plans to determine Site Assessment scores. Included in this score were two questions regarding land use policy. Question #3 is: Existing Land Use Policy and Question #7 is: Surrounding Property Future Land Use. Any property that was labeled in their respective future land use plan as commercial, industrial, or residential was not allowed to be classified as Farmland Preservation Areas, even if their total LESA score was over 150. The maps in this plan shall supersede future land use maps from the Polk County Comprehensive Plan.

The distribution of farmland preservation areas clearly shows the results of combining both the LESA and Future Land Use data. Those communities with the more productive soils have identified agriculture as an important future land use. This is a little more obvious in the southern areas of the county. The resultant Farmland Preservation Areas map excludes those areas of the county where development is expected and includes those areas with a commitment to agriculture. It follows the historic development pattern while preserving the most productive soils in communities that have determined agriculture and farming will be an important part of their future.

All sites in the county with a majority of the site in agricultural use or a compatible adjacent land use were analyzed by the LESA system. Not every town has parcel mapping, so in some instances, there is no information available. The intent is that when towns get parcel data that an updated LESA and Farmland Preservation Areas Map will be able to be created. There is a total of 440,530 acres designated as Farmland Preservation Areas. This allows for more than an adequate amount of acreage to handle projected development throughout the county, in the future.

Farmland Preservation Areas will be eligible to participate in Agriculture Enterprise Areas (AEA), Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) and Farmland Preservation Zoning through the WI Farmland Preservation Program if properties meet the program requirements. Areas in white on the Farmland Preservation Areas Map will not be eligible to participate in Agriculture Enterprise Areas (AEA), Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) and Farmland Preservation Zoning through the WI Farmland Preservation Program. Participation in AEAs, PACE, and Farmland Preservation Zoning will require additional, subsequent actions by the County, towns, and landowners.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Farmland Preservation Plan will follow the stated policies of this plan. Key steps are highlighted here. When appropriate, revised district language and zoning maps will follow the policies of this plan and will need review, approval and adoption by both the county and towns before taking effect. Amendments to the zoning ordinance to create farmland preservation districts will conform to the requirements of Chapter 91, WI Stats. and will ensure the continued state certification of the ordinance.

The county will continue to encourage and support local landowner petitions to establish AEAs and if options become available to implement the PACE program will encourage and support that also.

The County will also identify and consider amendments to the general zoning ordinance, land division ordinance and other land use ordinances that would create multiple agricultural zoning districts to accommodate diverse agricultural activities, agricultural management, and related businesses.

AGRICULTURE CONDITIONS & TRENDS

Agriculture Trends Introduction

Agricultural practices in the County have changed significantly over the past 30 years. There are numerous reasons for these shifts in agricultural activities and practices, including changes in economics, population growth, societal changes, operational practices, support services, and state and national policies. The County's population increase in parts of the southwestern portion of the County has played a role in the loss of farmland. However, the remaining areas remain strongly committed to agriculture, albeit changing types of agriculture.

The most prominent change in Polk County's agriculture are the reduction in the number of dairy farms, increases in soybean acreage, and an overall reduction in oats and hay acreage. Changes in the dairy industry have happened over the past few decades and have been experienced in every neighboring county. Even with the changes in the County's agricultural industry and the existing agricultural economy of the County and region, Polk County remains one of the top counties in the state in terms of sales of some agricultural commodities. Of Wisconsin's 72 counties, Polk ranked 30th for value of livestock and their products. Polk County considers forestry and its associate uses as part of agriculture. With the large number of maple trees in Polk County, maple syrup is also an important agricultural product.

This conditions and trends analysis highlights the changes in agriculture, farming and related infrastructure over the past decades.

Agricultural Sales

Figure 1 shows the 2007 agricultural sales for Polk County and surrounding counties. The County's agricultural economy has shifted and changed since the 1980's and especially in the last decade. Between 1997 and 2007, there was a noticeable change in the total value of agricultural sales, with the County experiencing an 18 percent increase from \$87.7 million to \$103.7 million (constant 2007 dollars). The dairy industry has seen decreases in farms, cow numbers, and milk production and revenues. Corn acres have stayed relatively stagnant, but oats and hay acres have significantly gone down, while soybeans have significantly increased. Forested areas in the County are important to the economy. In addition to the forestry industry, many forested areas produce maple syrup and add to the tourism industry.

Polk County farmers sold more than \$103 million worth of agricultural products in 2007, which had a significant economic impact. Eighty percent of this value was in livestock, poultry and related products and of that, 55 percent was dairy. Crop and nursery products accounted for 20 percent of sales, of which grain was 15 percent. Polk County's total sales were lower than the neighboring counties of Barron and St. Croix, and higher than Burnett. Dairy sales followed the same trend.

In 2007, the County ranked fourth in the State for the number of turkeys, likely because of the nearby turkey processing facilities in Barron County; third in sheep and lambs, and 17th for the number of broilers and other meat-type chickens. The County also ranked 8th in the value of poultry and eggs; 11th in value of sheep, goats, and their products, and 14th in value of aquaculture. Figure 1A depicts Polk County's state and national rank for its top agricultural activities.

Figure 1

Annual Agricultural Sales, 2007										
	Barron	Burnett	St. Croix	Polk						
Livestock/Poultry (Total)	\$165,775,000	\$17,296,000	\$110,252,000	\$83,188,000						
Dairy	\$79,170,000	\$10,881,000	\$80,409,000	\$57,835,000						
Cattle & Calves	\$15,724,000	\$3,362,000	\$15,436,000	\$11,293,000						
Poultry/Eggs	\$67,752,000	(D)	\$11,443,000	\$12,241,000						
Hogs & Pigs	\$316,000	\$123,000	\$1,794,000	\$366,000						
Horses & Ponies	(D)	(D)	\$353,000	\$94,000						
Other Animals	\$1,991,000	(D)	\$185,000	\$539,000						
Crops/Greenhouse/Nursery (Total)	\$40,663,000	\$5,479,000	\$32,269,000	\$20,472,000						
Grains	\$27,082,000	\$3,489,000	\$23,647,000	\$14,995,000						
Greenhouse/Nursery	\$395,000	\$477,000	\$4,067,000	\$1,193,000						
Vegetables	\$10,645,000	\$138,000	\$2,115,000	\$1,773,000						
Hay	\$2,198,000	\$581,000	\$2,153,000	\$1,553,000						
Fruit/Berries	\$282,000	\$786,000	\$163,000	\$857,000						
Christmas Trees/Woody Shrubs	\$61,000	\$8,000	\$124,000	\$100,000						
Total All Sales	\$206,438,000	\$22,775,000	\$142,521,000	\$103,660,000						
Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture (D) With	hheld to avoid disclo	sing data for individ	Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.							

Figure 1A

Polk County State and National Rank, 2007							
Agricultural Sales	State Rank	National Rank					
Dairy	32 of 70	126 of 2,493					
Poultry/Eggs	8 of 72	520 of 3,020					
Horses & Ponies	49 of 70	1747 of 3,024					
Hogs & Pigs	37 of 71	1103 of 2,922					
Aquaculture	14 of 58	417 of 1,498					
Total Value Livestock/Poultry/Products	30 of 72	487 of 3,069					
Grains	43 of 71	1095 of 2,933					
Greenhouse/Nursery/Sod	39 of 70	1017 of 2,703					
Other Crops & Hay	40 of 72	1102 of 3,054					
Vegetables/Melons/Potatoes	36 of 71	625 of 2,796					
Total Value Crops/Greenhouse/Nursery	51 of 72	1435 of 3,072					
Total Value All Ag Products	38 of 72	859 of 3,076					
Turkeys Inventory	4 of 70	93 of 2371					
Oats (acres)	10 of 70	62 of 1,957					

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Soybeans (acres)	30 of 66 824 of 2,039
Corn for silage (acres)	25 of 70 106 of 2,263
Corn for grain (acres)	24 of 68 579 of 2,634
Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture (D) Withh	eld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

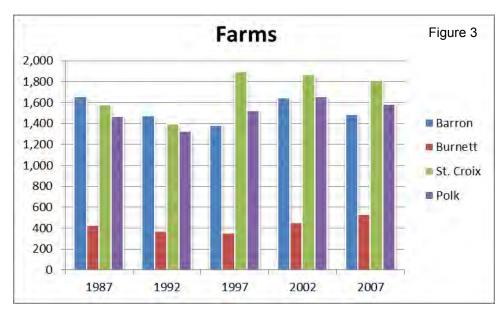
The secondary economic impacts of agriculture are also important in Polk County. Agriculture provides thousands of jobs for farm owners and managers, employees, veterinarians, crop and livestock consultants, feed, fuel and other crop input supplies, machinery dealers, barn builders, agricultural lenders, and other professionals in the food processing and other value added industries. Agriculture accounts for \$103 million in business sales from direct agricultural sales of products, sales of inputs, services and equipment and earnings spent. Figure 2 shows the sales, expenses, wages, and government payments for Polk County agriculture producers.

Figure 2

Economics & Labor Impact of Agriculture – 1987 to 2007							
ITEM	1987	1992	1997	2002	2007		
Total Sales	\$70,906,000	\$65,293,000	\$67,944,000	\$72,492,000	\$103,660,000		
Total Sales Average per Farm	\$48,334	\$49,315	\$52,225	\$43,696	\$65,524		
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$51,535,000	\$51,489,000	\$52,273,000	\$62,645,000	\$93,357,000		
Total Farm Production Expenses Average per Farm	\$35,154	\$38,889	\$40,179	\$37,920	\$59,012		
Hired Farm Labor (farms)	n/a	561	406	329	277		
Hired Farm Labor (workers)	n/a	1,533	1,217	1075	1022		
Hired Farm Labor (wages)	n/a	\$4,366,000	\$4,315,000	\$5,953,000	\$11,124,000		
Total Government Payments	\$4,113,000	\$1,646,000	\$2,151,000	\$3,536,000	\$976,000		
Government Payments Average per Farm	\$5,543	\$3,129	\$2,709	\$4,323	\$2,875		
Source: US Census of Agriculture, Fa	rms with sales Gre	ater than \$10,000					

Farms

The total number of farms increased between 1987 and 2007, as shown in Figure 3. In 1987, Polk County had a total of 1,467 farms; in 2007, the County had 1,582 farms (eight percent increase). However, there has been a small decrease (five percent) in the number of farms from



2002 to 2007. Similar trends occurred in surrounding Counties.

In 2007, the average farm size increased to 183 acres (three percent). From 2002 to 2007, the number of farms comprised of 1000+ acres grew by 24 percent (from 37 to 46). All other farm sizes decreased in number.

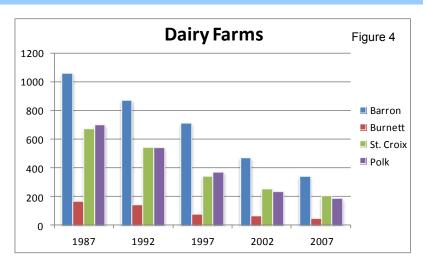
The change in the number of different sized farms is a result of several issues such as the terrain and geography of the County, proximity to the Twin Cities, commodity prices, changes in society, the changing global economy, and state and national agricultural policies. Commodity prices, the changing global economy, and agricultural policies are always in flux and have changed the way people farm. Changes in society that have impacted farm size and type include families having less children who are not returning to rural areas, and a higher percentage of young people attending college.

There has also been a change in farm size based on the value of farm products sold. The percentage of farms that sell over \$500,000 (in constant 2007 dollars) has increased. In 2002, the County had 42 farms that had a value of sales between \$250,000 and \$499,000 and 20 farms that had a value of sales over \$500,000. These numbers increased in 2007, when the County had 49 farms with a value of sales between \$250,000 and \$499,000 and 35 farms with a value of sales over \$500,000.

It should be noted that during any Census year, the total value is partially dependent on commodity prices, which can fluctuate even during a single year. An example of this is 2007 milk prices in Wisconsin, which at one point was \$15.10 per cwt and six months later was \$21.50 per cwt. Other examples include corn and soybeans. Corn has fluctuated between \$2/bu and \$7/bu over the past six years and soybeans between \$6 and \$12. In addition, the cost of production inputs for all products can change from year to year affecting profitability.

Dairy Farms

There has been a decrease of dairy farms in Polk County and the surrounding region (Figure 4). The number of dairy farms significantly dropped between 1987 and 2007. Polk County had 696 dairy farms in 1987 and 187 in 2007, a 73 percent decrease. Between 2002 and 2007, there were 50 fewer dairy farms, a 21 percent decrease. This trend is consistent with what is happening in neighboring counties, the region and the

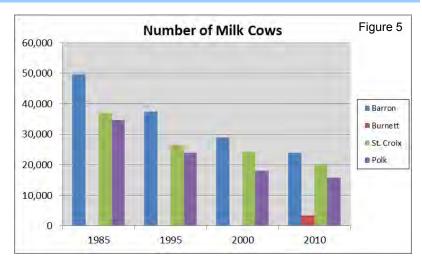


state; all have lost numerous dairy farms. During this timeframe (1987-2007), dairy farms in Wisconsin decreased by 62 percent.

Cows & Milk Production

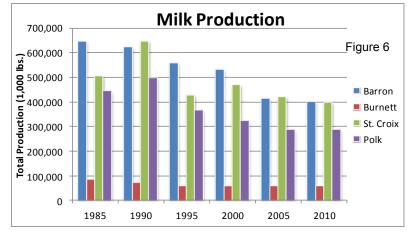
The County and region have also experienced a decrease in the total number of cows, although not as dramatic as the loss of dairy farms. As seen in *Figure 5*, in 1985 Polk County had 34,700 cows. This number dropped to 15,800 in 2011 (-18,900), about 54 percent. The County lost 30 percent of its cows between 1985 and 1995 (-10,700). Again this trend is not specific to Polk County. Dairy cow numbers in the surrounding counties dropped

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by 50 percent in Barron and 47 percent in St. Croix. Although these counties are still losing dairy cows, the losses have tapered off in the past few years.

Since milk production per cow has significantly increased, total milk production in Polk County

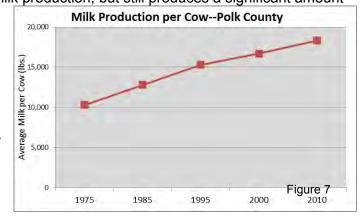


and the region has not decreased as rapidly as dairy farms and cows. Between 1985 and 2011, the County experienced a reduction from 444 million pounds to 289 million pounds (*Figure 6*). This decrease of 93 million pounds equates to a 35 percent decrease in total milk production over 26 years. More recently, the County experienced an

extremely slight increase of one/tenth of a percent (400,000 pounds) between 2005 and 2010. Polk County is not a statewide leader in milk production, but still produces a significant amount

of milk. Neighboring counties also experienced reductions in total milk production.

Figure 7 depicts Polk County's increase in average milk production per cow from 1975 to 2010. This is a result of industry changes including diet, genetics, and management. These changes in the dairy industry are strongly influenced by federal policies, grain prices, and economies of scale.



It should be noted that despite Polk

County's population growth during this same timeframe, 1987 to 2011, dairy production continues to play an important role in the agricultural ecomony and culture of the County.

Crops

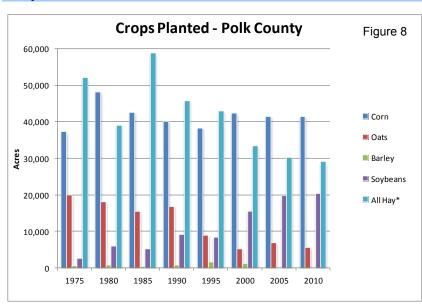
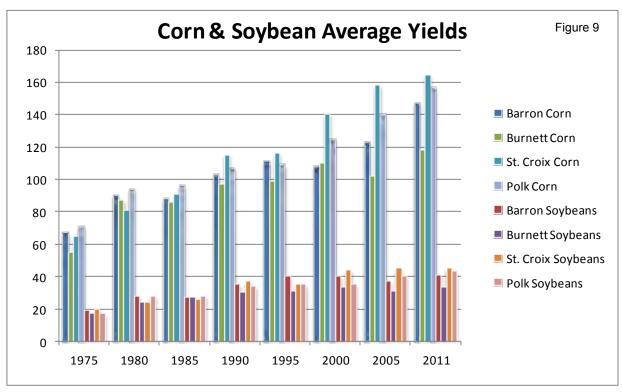


Figure 8 depicts which crops were grown in Polk County from 1975 to 2010. Corn led the County in crop acres planted with 41,500 acres. There was a 11 percent increase in the amount of corn being grown from 1975 to 2010. However, from 2000 to 2010, there was a decrease of just under 1000 acres. Hay was the second leading crop in the County. with 29,100 acres in production. There were significant changes between 1975 and 2010. Oats decreased from 20,000

acres to 5,500 acres. Soybeans increased from 2,600 acres to 20,300 acres. Hay decreased from 52,000 and 29,100 acres. Data was not available for barley in recent years. These shifts can be somewhat attributed to the decrease in livestock, especially dairy cows, in the County and region. But the more significant impact is from federal policies and economic incentives for corn and soybean production and not oats, barley or hay crops.

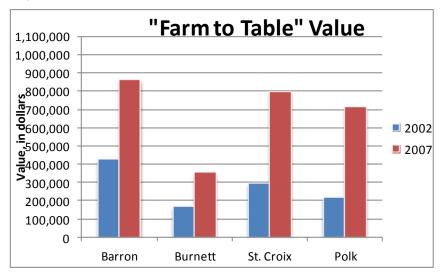


In addition to looking at the total number of acres planted and harvested, another important aspect of total crops in the County is the yield generated. The average corn and soybean yield can be seen in Figure 9. Since 1970, the average yield per acre has increased by 121 percent for corn and 153 percent for soybeans. The increased yields are a result of advances in crop genetics, better farm management and improved planting, production and harvesting technology.

Direct Market Farms

Another trend occurring in Polk County and neighboring counties since 2000 is the increase in the number of farms marketing agricultural products directly to consumers. Producers are

Figure 10



promoting the "farm to table" concept to improve profitability and capture the growing interest in fresher, healthier food alternatives. This trend has support from the University of Wisconsin Extension and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection with education and information provided to producers interested in trying direct farm marketing. The proximity of Polk County and neighboring counties,

Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix, to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area population base has also supported this trend. Even though the overall sales of direct market farms are still under five percent of the total county sales, this niche market is growing.

Figure 10 shows the increase in direct market agricultural products sold to individuals for consumptionDirect market products are sold through purchases from farmers markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture. Polk County experienced a 231 percent increase in farm to table sales between 2002 and 2007. In fact, the entire west central part of Wisconsin experienced a substantial sales increase. In comparison, the statewide average sales increase was 50 percent. The number of direct market farms in the County increased from 120 to 194 farms from 2002 to 2007. Most of these farms are small, but larger operations are beginning to enter the market as well. These farms are producing food for the local/regional food market and selling large quantities to grocery stores and restaurants.

Forestry

The Farmland Preservation Program for the State of Wisconsin includes forestry as part of its agricultural uses. Forestry is a significant land use in Polk County. Over the past decade, about one-third of the land in Polk County is in forestry use (Figure 11), which is the second highest land use in the county behind agriculture. In 2013, according to assessment records, there were 197,549 acres in forestry-related land use classifications. While the overall amount land, according to assessment, in forestry has decreased slightly in the past decade, forestry still represents a considerable amount of the overall land use in the county.

Considering the significant amount of land in forestry usage, the impacts of forestry on Polk County are significant. Forestry has a variety of impacts on the economy of Polk County, from the logging, to tourism due to healthy forests, to wood products. Statistics for this information at the county level is not readily available presently; especially for private forested parcels, but would be valuable information to have to help more fully understand forestry's benefit in this regard. As part of this plan, Polk County would like to gather more data on the economic benefits of forestry to the County. Data could include the following: cutting notices for logging on private lands, direct logging job numbers, wood product jobs, cottage industries, sawmills, tourist numbers and spending, to name a few.

Figure 11

	Acreages in Forestry Use by Assessment Code Per Year										
ASSESSMEN T CLASS CODE	AG FOREST	PRODUCTIV E FOREST LANDS	PRIVATE FOREST CROP PRE 72	PRIVATE FOREST CROP POST 71	PRIVATE FOREST CROP SPECIAL	COUNTY FOREST CROP	MFL OPEN POST 2004	MFL CLOSED POST 2004	MFL OPEN PRE 2005	MFL CLOSED PRE 2005	TOTAL
Year	G5M	G6	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	
2013	47,962	91,239	305	240	0	13,747	2,629	18,420	4,099	18,909	197,549
2012	47,608	93,743	505	240	0	13,747	2,463	16,017	4,253	19,521	198,097
2011	47,397	97,736	545	240	0	13,864	2,197	11,353	4,767	20,618	198,717
2010	47,322	99,572	545	360	120	13,864	2,077	10,057	4,972	20,449	199,339
2009	46,330	101,646	545	520	190	13,864	1,749	8,731	5,379	20,153	199,107
2008	46,122	105,075	3,181	576	310	13,904	1,661	6,812	5,689	19,860	203,191
2007	45,953	108,407	618	856	388	16,581	1,382	5,074	5,800	19,749	204,448
2006	45,015	110,560	625	1,456	550	16,581	554	2,848	5,985	19,641	203,815
2005	43,971	115,361	905	1,696	550	16,707	258	2,035	6,109	19,728	207,322
% Change	9%	-21%	-66%	-86%	-100%	-18%	919%	805%	-33%	-4%	-5%
Acreage Change	3,991	-24,122	-600	-1,456	-550	-2,960	2,371	16,385	-2,010	-819	-9,773

Source: Polk County Tax Roll

In addition to the private lands that are forested, Polk County has its own forest and current has a total of over 17,000 acres of forest. These forest lands are logged regularly through timber sales. In addition, there are timber sales on state-owned lands within Polk County. While information on the impact of the County Forest is well documented in Figure 12, the forestry activities on the other publicly owned lands are not as easily obtained. As is the case with private woodlots, this information would be data that is valuable to have and the County would like to obtain. Figure 12 shows the timber sales from county forest.

Figure 12

Polk County Forest Timber Sales							
Year	Number	Acres	Total Cord	Sales			
	of Sales	Cut	Equivalents	Value			
1996	6	3,397	3,495	\$80,720			
1997	6	3,373	3,409	\$78,154			
1998	3	3,419	3,435	\$90,260			
1999	4	4,723	4,759	\$129,782			
2000	5	4,912	5,196	\$151,854			
2001	4	4,254	4,308	\$124,481			
2002	2	5,677	5,677	\$175,139			
2003	9	7,257	7,683	\$275,856			
2004	11	13,858	14,894	\$482,267			
2005	7	4,802	5,093	\$180,011			
2006	5	3,705	3,986	\$137,242			
2007	6	7,528	9,404	\$523,856			
2008	9	18,748	19,929	\$687,659			
2009	3	2,947	3,017	\$90,920			
2010	2	1,708	1,722	\$38,651			
2011	6	6,856	6,883	\$201,369			
2012	13	12,219	14,292	\$510,197			
Total	101	109,383	117,182	\$3,958,417			

Source: Polk County Forest Comprehensive Plan

Forestry has a number of ecological benefits, in addition to its economic benefits. Healthy forests provide necessary habitat for a host of plants and animals. The forests in the state of Wisconsin, including here in Polk County are diverse and offer different habitat which leads to greater biodiversity. Watershed protection is a key benefit of healthy forests. The forest provides shade to help keep surface waters cooler. Rainfall is slowed and the release of stormwater is significantly slowed in forests. Root systems of trees and the understory of a forest help to stabilize banks along waterbodies and help prevent soil from being washed away.

Aesthetics and outdoor recreation are a couple of other benefits to Polk County from healthy forests. These quality of life characteristics are what have drawn people to this area to live and visit. In addition to the acres in county forest, Polk County has numerous acres in town land, state-owned lands, and federally-owned lands, most of which are forested.

In some ways, forestry shares similar issues or threats to its productivity. Parcelization of land is a key issue for both agriculture and forestry. It is also hard to log a smaller parcel, as well as not as financially viable versus a larger contiguous piece of property. In a similar fashion, the separation of incompatible land uses is also a common issue. It is likely that as more residential-type development occurs in the rural parts of the county, the more difficult it will become to effectively perform proper forestry techniques, including logging.

Organic Farms

In 2007, Wisconsin had 1,222 certified organic farms, ranking second in the nation. In comparison, Minnesota had 550 organic farms. Organic farming is a growing market, especially in areas like western Wisconsin with its close proximity to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area population base. In 2007, Polk County had 24 organic farms and 2,533 acres of organic farmland and an additional seven farms were in the process of transferring to organic.

Agricultural Infrastructure & Agribusiness

As a whole, agricultural infrastructure related to dairy and crop farming has been significantly reduced in the County in the last few decades. Even one generation ago, most communities in Polk County had processing, storage, and supply facilities. Many of these facilities have since closed or have combined. This reduction of agricultural infrastructure can be attributed to the increase in size and decrease in the number of traditional agricultural operations, as well as increasing internet purchasing options. It is anticipated that the County will continue to experience a decrease in agricultural infrastructure. However, because there are fewer facilities, the rate of reduction will be slower than in the past.

Agriculture-related businesses that are available in the County include: seed, feed, chemical, implement, equipment repair, veterinary, greenhouse/nursery, meat processing and marketing, financial services, and general farm supply (Figure 13). Additional equipment, supply, and processing businesses that serve Polk County are located in neighboring counties.

While some facilities such as dairy equipment and supplies dealers do not exist in the County anymore, some services still retain a strong presence. There are six seed, feed and fertilizer cooperatives with seven locations around the County which provide supply, processing, and storage facilities for corn and soybeans. Unfortunately, Polk County has lost much of its transportation facilities; the railroad used to be the primary form of transporting agricultural products outside of the County, but now most crops are shipped via semi-trucks. Reflecting agricultural trends in the industry, the only dairy processing facilities remaining in the County are small-scale on-farm facilities, whereas there are four meat processors serving the increasing number of livestock producers in the County.

Figure 13

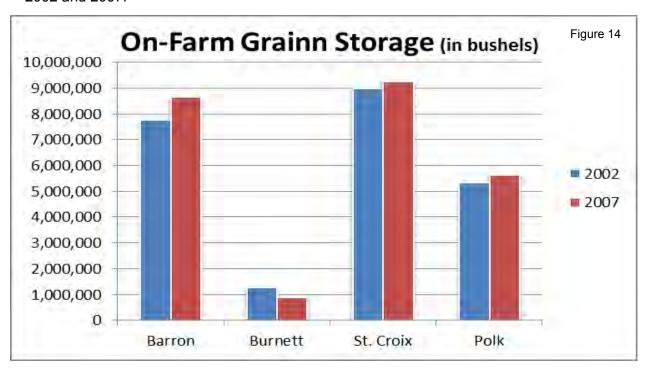
Polk County Agribusinesses - 2000 to 2010

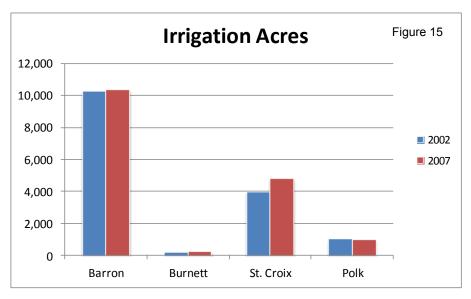
Туре	2000	2005	2010
Agricultural Services			
Agriculture and Forestry Support	3	1	2
Veterinary Services	13	11	10
Manufacturing			
Food and Beverage	6	11	8
Farm Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	1	2	2
Wholesale Trade			
Farm Product Raw Material Merchant	n/a	1	2
Machinery/Equipment	n/a	3	3
Farm Supplies	n/a	4	2
Total Agribusinesses	23	33	29

Source: U.S. Census, County Business Patterns, 1978 – 2007

- From 2000 to 2010 above agribusiness services stayed relatively the same.
- The availability of equipment, parts and supplies through the internet and on-farm delivery has negatively impacted local businesses while expanding farm resources and opportunities.

In recent years, agricultural storage facilities have been shifting to privately-owned, on-farm or regional facilities that are not located within Polk County. As the size of farms increases this is expected to continue. Figure 14 shows the six percent increase in the number of bushels of grain being stored on-site, and nine percent decrease in the number of farms doing so between 2002 and 2007.





Field irrigation decreased six percent in Polk County between 2002 and 2007. The number of irrigation farms increased from 28 to 30 farms over the same time (Figure 15).

The majority of the commodity crops produced in Polk County are processed and distributed in the County. Processors in the County are local feed and fertilizer cooperatives which store grain and mix feeds to be sold to area producers. Corn and soybeans that are not sold or used for livestock

feed in the County are distributed through a number of channels. Some crops, such as canning beans are sold directly to the company which processes, packages, and sells the product. An ethanol plant in neighboring Barron County utilizes some of the corn produced. The largest share of crops goes to commodity markets in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN area where the corn and soybeans is sold to regional, national, and international markets.

In comparison, local food products are distributed solely within the County or in the surrounding area. The majority of local food producers sell their products to area Farmers Markets or direct to consumers through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) or farm stands. Some producers sell their products directly to institutions (e.g. schools, hospitals, etc.), restaurants and grocery stores, in the County and as far away as the Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN area. Also, local foods products are being distributed through wholesale channels. Unlike commodity crops, the number of producers producing and distributing their local foods products in the County is rising.

Anticipated Future Changes In Agriculture In Polk County

There are many conditions that affect the future of agriculture and farmland in Polk County. Two major issues identified as having a significant impact on the future of agriculture and farmland for Polk County are prices for agricultural products and non-agricultural development of land. If prices for agricultural products are high, then farmers will more likely be able to afford to stay farming as well as rent or purchase additional lands for production. If prices fall, then there is a higher likelihood that land would be used for other purposes besides agricultural production and forestry. All indications are that the current trend of increasing size and decreasing numbers of dairy farms will continue. Cash crops will continue to dominate the agricultural sector of the economy in Polk County. In addition, the rise in Community Supported Agriculture and other direct sales options (including gardening) will continue, but still remain a small portion of the overall agricultural picture in the county.

The distribution future for the typical agricultural products of milk, corn, and soybeans looks to be very similar to what it is now. The likely trend of consolidation of agricultural service centers will probably continue, resulting in more on-farm processing. The places where the agricultural products get sent look to be unchanged in the near future. Where changes in distribution are likely is in the local foods area, with CSA's, farmers markets, and direct sales operations. New businesses in this realm are starting this year and existing CSA's have seen significant growth. With the increasing popularity of people wanting to be connected to their food sources and with over half the CSA produce from the county going to the Twin Cities market, this should be a growth area for wider distribution. Polk County has an opportunity to capture new markets, expand existing markets, and develop a broad base of agricultural production which should lead to a more stable future for this sector.

A new, higher capacity bridge is being constructed that connects southern Polk County to the Twin Cities metro area of Minnesota, near Stillwater, MN. The county has already experienced significant development in the southern part when the economy was in better shape. When the economy turns around, it would be expected that the development pressure from the Twin Cities would also increase again. In addition, the development that occurred in the recent past happened more in the rural areas of the county versus the incorporated areas. This adds pressure to lands that could be used for agricultural production. How this development is planned will be key for the future of agriculture and forestry in Polk County.

LAND USE TRENDS

Perhaps the most noticeable changes in Polk County over the past two decades were land use changes, specifically around the cities and villages. The land use changes were mostly from agricultural land to residential land, but also included commercial and industrial development as well. Regardless of the location in the County, the majority of the new development was significantly different than developed land use patterns that were prevalent throughout Polk County over the last 100 years. The newer development often consisted of larger lots and much lower density levels.

Urban Growth

Over the past several years, the definition of both "assessed agricultural land" and "farmland" in the various data collection forms, and the definition of what constitutes a farm, have changed to the point where it is challenging and oftentimes impossible to compare total farmland and the number of farms from previous years. A much more efficient way to examine how land use and the landscape have changed is to look at the changes in residential, commercial, and industrial acres. Figure 16 shows the increase in the total acreage of residential, commercial and industrial acres in Polk County from 1987 to 2010. The County has experienced a 121 percent increase in the total of these three land use types. This increase is equivalent to 44 square miles of growth in the County. Between 1997 and 2010, these land uses increased roughly 15,000 acres, the equivalent of over 22 square miles. In 2010, the land uses account for 10.7 percent of the assessed land in the County.

Figure 16

Polk County Land Use Acreage								
Polk County	Residential	Commercial	Manufacturing	Agricultural	Undeveloped	Forest/AG Forest*	Other	Total
1987	19,419	2,707	1,230	340,995	4,597	137,138	0	506,086
1997	32,836	2,703	1,540	285,545	4,702	145,642	2,900	475,868
2010	46,453	3,258	1,937	213,131	70,335	117,658	2,369	484,378

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue based on assessment records.

*Ag Forest was not a category in 1987 and 1997, Exempt and woodland acres are not included in these categories or the total.

From 1994 to 2009 there have been significant changes in how property is assessed in Wisconsin. Use value assessment, which was implemented between 1996 and 2000, shifted land uses from the agricultural real estate classification to the undeveloped (which was formerly swamp and waste), agriculture forest and agriculture buildings and sites (other) classifications.

Undeveloped land includes areas commonly called marshes, swamps, thickets, bogs or wet meadows. This class also includes fallow tillable land (assuming agricultural use is the land's highest and best use), road right-of-way, ponds, depleted gravel pits and land that, because of soil or site conditions, is not producing or capable of producing commercial forest products.

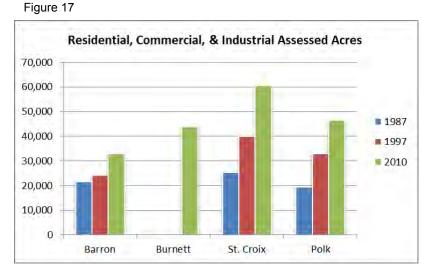
Although there seems to be a significant decrease in the amount of land in the agricultural real estate classification from 1994 to 2009, the actual amount was less because of the changes in how property is assessed.

The effect of use-value assessment can be seen beginning in 1997 when agricultural land value went down and the agricultural buildings and sites category was added. Use-value has shifted the tax burden from agricultural land to the other assessment categories.

The "exempt acres" category generally includes all publicly-owned local, county, state and federal land and institutionally-owned land, such as churches. Exempt acres are exempt from

assessment but not all of this land is exempt from taxes. For instance, the WDNR provides payments in lieu of taxes to local communities each year. Woodland Tax or Managed Forest is another land classification not included in the general assessment categories, because it is taxed at a special reduced rate.

As seen in Figure 17, the expansion of residential, commercial and industrial assessed acres also occurred



in surrounding counties; it should be noted that 1987 and 1997 data are missing for Burnett County.

When looking at the population projections of the County, the current trend of increasing residential, commercial, and industrial land uses is likely going to continue. Using the same assessed acres/person ratio that existed in 2010, the projected 2035 developed land uses increase substantially: residential +34 sg/mi., commercial +2 sg/mi. and industrial +1 sg/mi.

Figure 18 shows total land use acreage by town, village, and city over more than two decades. The amount of land in Polk County's towns has decreased by about 37,000 acres (seven percent) during that timeframe. The villages and cities have grown by about 2,500 (37 percent) and 800 acres

Figure 18

Polk County Total Land Use Acreage, by Municipality							
	1987	1997	2010				
Town Total	511,137	500,790	474,323				
Village Total	6,677	7,243	9,130				
City Total	969	987	1,758				
County Total	518,783	509,020	485,211				
Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue based on assessment records. Exempt and woodland acres are not included in these categories or the total.							

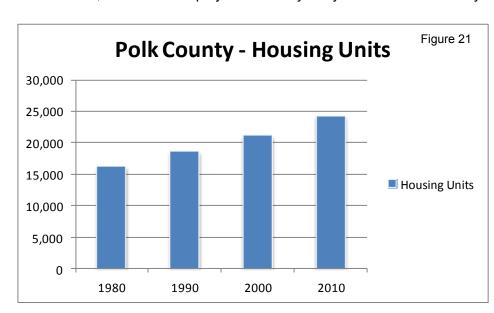
(83 percent) respectively in the same timeframe.

Since 2006, nationally there has been an economic recession and a depressed housing market with numerous foreclosures and significantly less new housing. Polk County was not immune to the recession and also felt declines in the overall economy and the new housing sector.

As will be discussed in the population section, it is often difficult to see exactly where people live in the County. *Figures 19* and *20* show population density by Census Block in 2000 and 2010, making it clearer which parts of the County have experienced population increases and changes in land use.

Housing

The number of housing units in Polk County has steadily increased in the recent decades. As seen in *Figure 21*, Polk County experienced a 49 percent increase in the number of housing units between 1980 and 2010. There were 16,228 units in 1980 and 24,218 units in 2010, an increase of 7,990 units. It is projected that by the year 2035 Polk County will contain 26,429



housing units, a nine percent increase from 2010.

Between 1980 and 1990, 2,334 units were added countywide. Between 1990 and 2000, 2,567 housing units were added in the County. Between 2000 and 2010, 3,089 housing units were added.

Between 1980 and 2010, all but one municipal unit saw

growth of 20 percent or greater. Eleven municipal units saw an increase in housing units of over 50 percent. The Town of Osceola had the largest housing growth at 153 percent and the largest numberic growth at 719 housing units. Other areas with large percentage increases included the Village of Osceola (93%), Town of Eureka (69.5%), City of St. Croix Falls (69.5%), and the towns of Garfield (65.1%), Sterling (63.3%), and Black Brook (63.1%).

Other communities experiencing significant numberic increases in housing units between 1980 and 2010, included the cities of St. Croix Falls (446) and Amery (418), and the towns of Osceola (621), Alden (454), and Lincoln (433).

From 2000 to 2010, 11 muncipalities experienced an expansion in the number of housing units of under 10 percent. Four municipal units experienced growth of 30 percent or more.

There were no muncipalities that experienced a loss in the number of housing units. A reduction in a muncipality's housing stock is commonly caused by annexing land from a town to an incorporated municipality, through abandonment or condemntation, or destruction from natural disasters. Demands for additional housing have resulted in the conversion of undeveloped land (crop, forested, pasture) into residential development.

Economic Growth & Business Development

Economic and business development trends and existing conditions are located in the Polk County Conditions and Trends Report. As a whole, Polk County does not have an overly complex economy. With all communities in the County being small, the majority of the economy in the County is located in these smaller communities. Not as much as some counties, but Polk County is impacted by the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Regionalism and partnerships are taking a more important role in creating a more dynamic economy and enhancing agricultural business development options.

There have been two agricultural-related businesses that have received a total of two loans from the Regional Business Fund, Inc., a regional revolving loan fund for a seven-county region, over the past five years.

In the Agricultural Trends section of this report, one can find information relating specifically to the agriculture industry in Polk County. It is important to note a few general economic themes occurring in Polk County that may have some direct or indirect relation to farmland preservation:

- Polk County's economy is impacted by regional, state, national and international decisions and fluctuations. This can be seen by the fluctuations in gas, commodities, home purchases, and a host of other variables in recent years.
- From 2000 to 2009, Wisconsin experienced a steady increase in the number of foreclosures, with a peak of 28,532 filings in 2009. Since 2009, the number of foreclosure filings has decreased and in 2011, the number of filings was 23,243. It should be noted that Portage County is not included in those numbers. Polk County had a similar pattern during that timeframe with a peak number of foreclosures of 408 filings in 2009, decreasing to 321 in 2011. As of September 2012, Wisconsin had a foreclosure rate of 1 in 745 homes, more than Minnesota's rate of 1 in 1,495 homes and slightly lower than the nation's 1 in 730. Polk County has experienced a high rate (1 in every 458 homes in September 2012) of foreclosures when compared with the other counties in Wisconsin.
- There is increasing demand for skilled workers in the region. Educational attainment past high school is seven percentage points below the State average. However, the percentage of high school graduates is two percentage points higher than the State.
- Only 20.6 percent of the County's resident labor force works within the community in which they live. With 23.3 percent of the resident labor force working outside the State, average travel times to work have been increasing. The mean travel time to work is 28 minutes, which is seven more minutes more than the State average.
- Food service occupations are expected to have one of the greatest total number of job increases in the region from 2004 to 2014.
- As of 2010, 3.5 percent of Polk County jobs were in Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining.
- The primary occupation of Polk County farmers changed between 2002 and 2007. In 2002, 828 farmers had "farming" as their primary occupation. This number dropped to 679 in 2007. This is an 18 percent drop. The farmers that had "other" as their primary occupation increased from 831 to 903 between 2002 and 2007, a nine percent increase.
- There has been an increase in immigrant agricultural workers in the County. These
 workers, who are primarily Hispanic, are both authorized and unauthorized. This
 increase in immigrant agricultural workers has created issues regarding housing,
 education in the school districts, and societal integration into local communities.

It is clear when looking at the above facts about Polk County's economy, along with information provided in this report about population and housing that Polk County's labor force will inevitably increase in the future. The amount of increase is difficult to determine, especially due to the proximity of the southwestern portion of the County to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The need to fill jobs and accommodate new workers will result in further growth pressures on the County's farmland, albeit not as dramatically as some other counties that are closer to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

POPULATION TRENDS

Polk County has had slow, steady growth over the past 30 years. Growth has not been limited to the County's cities and villages; population growth in rural areas has occurred throughout the County as well. The most significant population increases have mostly happened in the western and southern half of the County. The population increase has resulted in growth pressures and has impacted land use in the County.

Figure 22 shows the percent of population that lived in a town (not a city or village) in 1970 and 2000 in Polk County as well as neighboring counties. As can be seen, the percent of population in Polk County that lived in towns stayed relatively the same from 1970

FIGURE 22

Town Farm & Non-Farm Population						
County	% of 1970	% of 2000				
	Population	Population				
Barron						
Town Farm	26.0	6.9				
Non-Farm	26.7	47.6				
Burnett						
Town Farm	N/A	N/A				
Non-Farm	N/A	N/A				
St. Croix						
Town Farm	22,8	4.5				
Non-Farm	28.4	47.2				
Polk						
Town Farm	31.4	5.6				
Rural Non-Farm	31.3	58.5				
Note: Town is defined as not in a city or village.						
Source: U.S. Census						

to 2000 (62.7 percent vs. 64.1 percent). However, in 1970, 31.4 percent of the County's population lived on a farm in a town. In 2000, this percent dropped to 5.6 percent. Thus, 58.5 percent of the County's 2000 population lived in a non-farm residence in a town. In 1950, roughly 10 percent of the County's population lived Rural Non-Farm while roughly 60 percent lived Rural Farm.

With the increase in population between 2000 and 2010 and the number of farms being relatively stable (~1,850), it is anticipated that Town Non-Farm population will increase when the 2010 Census data is released. In addition, and just as important, some of the new Town Non-Farm population will be from urban areas where they are not accustomed to living in close proximity to agricultural operations. This change increases potential conflicts between farmers and non-farmers, such as odor, traffic, and noise.

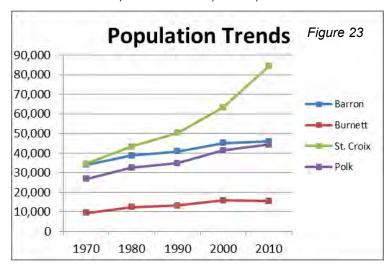


Figure 23 shows the population increase in several counties over the past century. Starting in the 70's, Polk County began to grow faster than in the previous decades. Since 1970, Polk County's population increased from 26,666 to 44,205 in 2010. By 2035, it is projected that the County will have just over 60,000 people. This increase is not nearly as significant as the projected population increases in counties that are located along the Interstate Highway 94 corridor, but is very significant for the County.

Figure 24a depicts which cities, villages, and towns have changed in population from 1970 to 2010. It identifies the larger population gains in the southern and central portions of Polk County and in some cities and villages. The highest growth during this period occurred in the Towns of Osceola and Balsam Lake and the City of Osceola. It also shows how the northern part of the county and also Town of Clear Lake had limited growth.

POLK COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Figure 24b provides data on the actual populations and percentage changes from 1970 to 2010 by municipality in Polk County. The populations in the cities and villages increased by a total of 533, while the populations in the unincorporated areas increased by 2,353. The town with the largest growth was the Town of Osceola, which increased by 770 people between 2000 and 2010. The towns of Georgetown, Lincoln, Lorain, and West Sweden and the villages Fredric and Luck experienced population decreases between 2000 and 2010.

FIGURE 24b

	Year				Percent Change				
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	'70-'80	'80-'90	'90-'00	'00-'10
Towns									
Alden	1,406	1,862	2,133	2,615	2,786	32.4%	14.6%	22.6%	6.5%
Apple River	544	819	815	1,067	1,146	50.6%	-0.5%	30.9%	7.4%
Balsam Lake	631	960	1,067	1,384	1,411	52.1%	11.1%	29.7%	2.0%
Beaver	641	755	663	753	835	17.8%	-12.2%	13.6%	10.9%
Black Brook	775	949	964	1,208	1,325	22.5%	1.6%	25.3%	9.7%
Bone Lake	416	466	503	710	717	12.0%	7.9%	41.2%	1.0%
Clam Falls	522	614	596	547	596	17.6%	-2.9%	-8.2%	9.0%
Clayton	713	789	780	912	975	10.7%	-1.1%	16.9%	6.9%
Clear Lake	793	777	744	800	899	-2.0%	-4.2%	7.5%	12.4%
Eureka	1,043	1,135	1,201	1,338	1,649	8.8%	5.8%	11.4%	23.2%
Farmington	1,156	1,195	1,267	1,625	1,836	3.4%	6.0%	28.3%	13.0%
Garfield	768	1,010	1,107	1,443	1,692	31.5%	9.6%	30.4%	17.3%
Georgetown	526	746	780	1,004	977	41.8%	4.6%	28.7%	-2.7%
Johnstown	328	401	410	520	534	22.3%	2.2%	26.8%	2.7%
Laketown	725	909	921	918	961	25.4%	1.3%	-0.3%	4.7%
Lincoln	1,198	1,683	1,835	2,304	2,208	40.5%	9.0%	25.6%	-4.2%
Lorain	275	280	299	328	284	1.8%	6.8%	9.7%	-13.4%
Luck	663	863	880	881	930	30.2%	2.0%	0.1%	5.6%
McKinley	297	337	327	328	347	13.5%	-3.0%	0.3%	5.8%
Milltown	691	943	949	1,146	1,226	36.5%	0.6%	20.8%	7.0%
Osceola	769	1,066	1,337	2,085	2,855	38.6%	25.4%	55.9%	36.9%
St Croix Falls	783	873	1,034	1,119	1,165	11.5%	18.4%	8.2%	4.1%
Sterling	379	497	591	724	790	31.1%	18.9%	22.5%	9.1%
West Sweden	691	718	682	731	699	3.9%	-5.0%	7.2%	-4.4%
sub-total	16,733	20,647	21,885	26,490	28,843	23.4%	6.0%	21.0%	8.9%
Villages									
Balsam Lake	648	749	792	950	1,009	15.6%	5.7%	19.9%	6.2%
Centuria	632	711	790	865	948	12.5%	11.1%	9.5%	9.6%
Clayton	306	425	450	507	571	38.9%	5.9%	12.7%	12.6%
Clear Lake	721	899	932	1,051	1,070	24.7%	3.7%	12.8%	1.8%
Dresser	533	670	614	732	895	25.7%	-8.4%	19.2%	22.3%
Frederic	908	1,039	1,124	1,262	1,137	14.4%	8.2%	12.3%	-9.9%
Luck	848	997	1,022	1,210	1,119	17.6%	2.5%	18.4%	-7.5%
Milltown	634	732	786	888	917	15.5%	7.4%	13.0%	3.3%
Osceola	1,152	1,581	2,075	2,421	2,568	37.2%	31.2%	16.7%	6.1%
Turtle Lake*	0	0	6	65	93	0.0%	0.0%	983.3%	43.1%
sub-total	6,382	7,803	8,591	9,951	10,327	22.3%	10.1%	15.8%	3.8%
Cities									
Amery	2,126	2,404	2,657	2,845	2,902	13.1%	10.5%	7.1%	2.0%
St. Croix Falls	1,425	1,497	1,640	2,033	2,133	5.1%	9.6%	24.0%	4.9%
sub-total	3,551	3,901	4,297	4,878	5,035	9.9%		13.5%	3.2%
Total	26,666	32,351	34,773	41,319	44,205	21.3%	7.5%	18.8%	7.0%

TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

Transportation facilities, which include highways, rail, airports, bike facilities, pedestrian facilities and transit, have a significant influence on land use, development and quality of life for Polk County residents (*Figure 25*). A well-maintained and planned transportation system can support a variety of land uses, facilitate the provision of various public services, as well as provide linkage among residents, agricultural producers, manufacturers and businesses. Therefore, in order to ensure safety and efficiency of the transportation system, identifying the County's existing and proposed road network and figuring out major transportation needs should be evaluated for potential impacts on farmland and agricultural businesses.

Highways

Polk County is served by just fewer than 2,000 miles of roads under state, county and local jurisdiction. Major north/south highways include US 63, WIS 35, WIS 65, and WIS 46. US 8 and WIS 48 are major east/west highways. Various construction and repair projects are planned for the State highways in Polk County over the next few years.

Designated Truck Routes/Agricultural Equipment

Truck routes are designed to accommodate semi-trucks and include roadside accommodations at rest areas for temporary parking. Long truck routes also often include private truck parking and fueling stations along the routes. Several of the state and US highways are designated as long truck routes in Polk County, including US 8, US 63, WIS 87, WIS 48 east of WIS 35, WIS 46 south of US 8, and WIS 35 north of Osceola.

Agricultural equipment for farming needs to utilize state, county and town roads to access fields. Operating farm vehicles on Wisconsin roads involves a specific set of regulations, safety and other requirements. Specific rules regarding length, height and width of agricultural equipment; driver requirements; hazardous materials; safety and vehicle registration; and weight restrictions can be found on the WisDOT website at:

http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/statepatrol/inspection/farm.htm.

Farmers are not exempt from highway weight restrictions except during harvest time. Wisconsin Statutes §348.17(5) annually lifts weight limits on Class A highways from September 1 to November 30 to harvest corn, soybeans, potatoes, vegetables or cranberries. The law allows weight limits to be exceeded by up to 15 percent for transport from farm field to initial storage or initial processing point. Farmers must meet all other vehicle requirements for size, operation and driver qualifications, and cannot travel on roadways or bridges with special weight restrictions or on most interstates.

Equipment operators are encouraged to drive in a courteous, law-abiding manner and respect local weight limits whenever possible. Non-agricultural vehicle operators are encouraged to respect agriculture's right to utilize roadways, follow safe passing signs and also drive in a courteous and law-abiding manner. Farm-equipment signage for areas with the greatest use would be helpful in warning vehicles of possible slow-moving or parked equipment on highways. Education and information access are also important.

Railroads

Rail service has diminished in Polk County, largely to the benefit of trail users. The only remaining active rail segment in the County is a Canadian National line that extends from

POLK COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Dresser, through Osceola, and across the St. Croix River to Withrow, Minnesota, connecting to points west, as well as back into Wisconsin through St. Croix County. From Dresser, east to Amery, the rail line is out of service and has made the conversion from rails to recreational trails. From Amery to the east county line, and east to Almena (Barron County), the Cattail State Trail runs on the former rail bed.

With the future growth in the County, issues regarding agricultural transport are likely to increase, especially safety and efficiency concerns. Driveway access to agricultural land and adequate roadway development should be addressed. Additional information regarding these and other transportation facilities in the County is found in the Transportation Section of the Polk County Comprehensive Plan.

INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES TRENDS

Utilities, Sanitary Sewer & Wastewater Treatment

Utilities, sanitary sewer, and wastewater treatment provide the foundation, on which a community is built and maintained, and contribute to the quality of life in Polk County. The location of a community's utilities, sewer and wastewater treatment facilities will affect future growth and development in the County. Currently, there are 14 Polk County communities that have collection and treatment facilities for the proper treatment of wastewater, which includes four sanitary districts.

Nearly all development in Polk County that is not located in a city, village or sanitary district uses private on-site sewer systems.

Water Supply

Agricultural practices can have an impact on ground and surface water. In many cases, chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides) that are used in agricultural operations, manure, and sedimentation can impact water quality above and below the ground. This can have a significant impact on drinking water and habitat.

Polk County communities receive their water from groundwater sources including drilled wells and dug wells.

Cities and villages in the county are served by municipal water systems. Polk County residents in the remaining unincorporated areas depend on individual private wells for their water supply, with the exception of Lake Magnor.

The quality of groundwater in Polk County is generally very good with some exceptions. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, some water bodies in Polk County are on the 2012 impaired waters list due to water quality concerns. These water bodies are:

- Apple River Flowage Total Phosphorus
- Big Butternut Total Phosphorus
- Bone Lake Total Phosphorus
- Cedar Lake Total Phosphorous
- Long Trade Lake Total Phosphorus
- Loveless Lake Total Phosphorus
- Magnor Lake Total Phosphorous
- St. Croix River PCBs
- Wapogasset :Lake Total Phosphorus
- Ward Lake Total Phosphorus
- White Ash Lake Total Phosphorus

Other water bodies are at similar risk, since many of the native soils of the area have high levels of phosphorus. Polk County Land & Water Conservation Department is actively working to minimize soil erosion through best management practices to reduce such impacts.

The plentiful surface waters are generally healthy. At the same time, many are suffering from the results of the soil erosion in the form of sedimentation. The native soils of the area contain a high level of phosphorous. This creates a situation of reduced habitat and high weed growth levels in the lakes and streams. There is an approach of planning high levels of soil conservation on the land to protect the waters of Polk County.

Communications

In broad terms, telecommunications facilities allow users to communicate and share data over long geographic distances. Access to wireless, seamless communication networks is becoming increasingly important in the modern world. Due to the increase in use of wireless communication for public safety, business, and personal use, constructing telecommunication towers is an issue that many municipalities are addressing more often than in the past. Polk County has adopted a Telecommunication Towers, Antennas, and Related Facilities ordinance (Ordinance #25-12). Most of Polk County has access to broadband (high-speed) Internet via telephone or cable lines, though some gaps do exist. As an alternative, some of these areas may have broadband access via other means (e.g., satellite).

Access to telecommunications facilities is becoming more important for farmers and others working in the agriculture business. As with any business owner, having accessible information on new programs, policies and innovative strategies will only help expand one's business.

Community Facilities & Services

Polk County residents are served by a wide assortment of community facilities and services at the local and facility level. Communities in Polk County are served by three private schools, 27 public schools, 10 public libraries, and eight clinics and hospitals. Given that the County is increasing in population, some corresponding increases in the level of services can be anticipated. Although these facilities are mainly located in urban areas, an increase in community facilities poses a threat to existing farmland and undeveloped areas.

Energy

The abundance of farmland and natural areas in Polk County provide opportunities in the growing renewable energy and bio-energy industries. Polk County industries, public entities, farms, and individuals are utilizing farmland and other natural areas to profit from and/or conserve resources by manufacturing renewable energy and bio-energy. Currently, numerous small, direct-market farms are located in Polk County. These farms provide food to Polk County and the surrounding area, including the Twin Cities.

Waste Management

In Polk County, waste management and collection services are provided by private local waste haulers. Polk County assists local municipalities in operating their recycling programs; provides education and information to the public; manages, disperses funds and completes reporting on grant programs; and holds special collections throughout the year for household and agricultural hazardous wastes, tires, appliances, electronics, toner cartridges and cell phones. Additional information regarding waste management in the County can be found in the County Comprehensive Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION TRENDS

Environmentally sensitive and valued land resources should be considered for the potential impacts of growth on agricultural activities. Development policies and management techniques need to be established to assess the desired impacts on these resources. See the Natural Resources section of the County Comprehensive Plan.

Figure 26 identifies floodplains, wetlands, water bodies, and parks in Polk County.

Slope

It is generally more desirable, both environmentally and economically, to avoid steep slopes and disruption of natural drainage ways with construction and land development. Steep slopes are any areas where the gradient of the land is 13 percent or greater (each percent of slope is measured as one unit in elevation for every 100 horizontal units). Areas having steep slopes can be categorized into three levels: 13 percent to 20 percent slope, 21 percent to 25 percent, and greater than 25 percent (Figure 27). Polk County has policies that limit growth and development on land that has steep slopes. These policies can be found in the County Zoning and Subdivision ordinances.

Based on the Soil Survey for Polk County, there are 95,661 acres that potentially have a slope of 13 percent or greater representing 16.3 percent of the total land base. Of this, 31,105 acres (5.3 percent) have slopes of 21 percent or greater and 2.6 percent have a slope of 25 percent and greater. The majority of these steep slopes are located in the western and far northern and far southern portions of the county. These relief changes can be seen on Figure 25. Additional localized and site-specific variations in topography and slope may exist. Glacial activity created some scenic topography, but may also be very sensitive to development activities.

Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that drains or "sheds" its water to a lake, river, stream, or wetland. The surface waters of Polk County fall within two major drainage systems - the St. Croix River Basin and the Lower Chippewa River Basin. The basins include the following watersheds: Wood River, North Fork Clam River, Clam River, Trade River, Wolf Creek, Balsam Branch, Upper Apple River, Beaver Brook, Hay River, South Fork Hay River, Trout Brook, Lower Apple River, and Upper Willow River watersheds. As a whole, both urban and agricultural land uses should try to severely limit the amount of runoff from a property.

In general, the water quality in the Lower Chippewa River Basin and St. Croix River Basin is a concern. The major concern is from added nutrients and sediment from run-off, primarily from agricultural land and urban areas. Surface and ground water quality can be affected by a wide variety of point and non-point sources, including agricultural run-off, stormwater from parking lots and roads, soil erosion and spills of hazardous materials. The risk of water contamination increases as development occurs. Sources and risks of contamination are important for individual communities to consider as they develop local land use and natural resources goals and strategies for their respective communities. Communities may select to participate in or support existing County or State programs to protect their water resources or implement local educational or regulatory programs.

Soils

Soil properties are an important factor in how land is used. Soils determine how productive farmland is, and the type and amount of development that can be reasonably supported based

on the various soil characteristics. Subsequently, identifying and reviewing soil suitability interpretations are essential for determining the most suitable land use for farmland preservation.

Prime farmland is the land that is best suited to food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. It may be cultivated land, pasture, woodland or other land, but it is not existing urban and built-up land, or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply are factors needed for a well-managed soil to produce a sustained high-yield of crops in an economic manner. Prime farmland produces the highest yields with minimal inputs of energy and economic resources, and farming it results in the least damage to the environment. Historically, soils that fall into classes I, II, and III of the Soil Conservation Service's capability unit classification system are considered prime agricultural lands. The value of these lands for agriculture is associated with not only their soil class, but also with their size, present use and any regulatory framework for their protection.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in establishing a uniform, national identification of productive farmlands, created a soil classification system that categorizes soils by their relative agricultural productivity. There are two categories of highly productive soils; national prime farmland and farmland of statewide significance. National prime farmland is well suited for the production of food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops, and has the soil qualities, available moisture and growing season required to produce economically sustained high yields of crops when properly managed. Farmland of statewide significance are those lands, in addition to national prime farmland, which are of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. Soils that fall into classes I, II, and III of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's capability unit classification system are considered prime agricultural lands.

In 1981, NRCS developed a new system for evaluating agricultural lands, "Land Evaluation and Site Assessment," (LESA) which uses more detailed considerations of soil capability and potential yields, and provides for the assessment of factors beyond soil productivity in the determination of agricultural potential. The system is now widely used throughout the U.S. The LESA system presents the opportunity to define agricultural lands that have the most production potential.

Land Evaluation & Site Assessment for Agriculture

The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system is a point-based approach that is generally used for rating the relative value of agricultural land resources. In basic terms, a given LESA model is created by defining and measuring two separate sets of factors. The first set, Land Evaluation, includes factors that measure the inherent soil-based qualities of land as they relate to agricultural suitability. The second set, Site Assessment, includes factors that are intended to measure social, economic and geographic attributes that also contribute to the overall value of agricultural land. While this dual rating approach is common to all LESA models, the individual land evaluation and site assessment factors that are ultimately utilized and measured can vary considerably, and can be selected to meet the local or regional needs and conditions a LESA model is designed to address. The LESA methodology lends itself well to adaptation and customization in individual states and localities. Also in addition to ranking soils for agricultural potential, the LESA system can provide a systematic and objective way to evaluate and numerically rank soils for their relative value for any specific use.

The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system is an analytical tool used to assist decision makers in comparing agricultural sites based on their agricultural value. The LESA system provides an objective and consistent tool to aid decision-makers in evaluating the relative importance of specific sites for continued agricultural use. In this sense, it is a tool for

determining the best use of a site. While in some cases the best use may be some type of development, there are many other situations where the best use is to remain in agriculture. Also, there may be instances where the land is not suitable for agriculture, but neither is it a suitable location for development. In such situations, the LESA system is a valuable tool for determining the use with the least detrimental impact to the environment, economy and aesthetics.

As noted, there are two components to the LESA system; the Land Evaluation (LE) portion of the system, which is based on soils and their characteristics, and the Site Assessment (SA) portion of the system, which rates other attributes affecting a site's relative importance for agricultural use. The Land Evaluation portion is generally stable and unchanging because the soils change very slowly over time and the data relative to those soils takes a long time to accumulate. The Site Assessment is dynamic and changes on a continual basis because there are regular changes in development, property ownership, roadway improvements, sewer expansions, etc. happening throughout an area.

A system was developed for Polk County by a committee consisting of citizens of the County with a background in agriculture, as most of them have farmed for decades.

Polk County used the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system to compare agricultural lands based on their agricultural value. The Land Evaluation (LE) rating reflects the soil productivity potential. Possible LE ratings range from 0 to 100. Higher ratings means the soil has greater value for agriculture use. Please see Polk County's LESA System, Appendix B for more details. As shown in Figure 29: Land Evaluation, the dark and light green soils represent the most valuable soils for agriculture use while the yellow and orange ones indicate the least value. Likewise, Figure 30 shows the most suitable sites for agriculture based on the Site Assessment in green and those areas less suitable in orange and red.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Marketing Campaigns

Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin

Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin is an economic development program administered through the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). It is designed to increase the purchase of Wisconsin grown and/or Wisconsin produced food products for sale to local purchasers. When food is locally grown, food dollars stay local and keep family farms and rural communities alive. According to its website, the state program administers the following activities:

- **Producers First** a technical assistance program for local food producers.
- Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin (BLBW) Workshops day-long workshops for local food producers. Topics range from farm financing to post harvest food handling and safety.
- Wisconsin Local Food Marketing Guide a step-by-step guide for local food producers interested in entering local food markets.
- **On-Farm Food Safety Web-tool** an online site with resources and tools for fresh fruit and vegetable producers: datcp.wi.gov/OnFarmFoodSafety/index.aspx.
- AmeriCorps Farm to School Launched in 2008, AmeriCorps members are placed in schools across the state with the goal of decreasing childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating habits in students and increasing access to local foods in schools.

Western Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas™

In addition to the specific activities that are derived from the state Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program, Polk County is a part of another effort to promote locally grown food. The Western Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas™ is a directory of farms, farmers' markets, and businesses that provide local, sustainably grown food. The directory covers 20 counties in western Wisconsin. Products featured include fresh fruit, including you-pick, pasture-grazed cattle and bison, and fresh, seasonal vegetables. The atlas can be found at www.wifarmfresh.org/.

Farmers' Market

Farmers' markets are places where farmers, sometimes along with bakers, cheese makers or other small food producers, can sell their products directly to consumers. Typically farmers' markets consist of tables or booths with farmers selling products such as vegetables, fruit, pasture-raised meats and poultry, eggs, honey, cheese, jam, preserves, salsas, cut flowers, ciders, baked goods, and nursery stock.

There are at least six active farmers' markets in Polk County:

- Amery Farmers' Market
- Balsam Lake Farmers' Market
- Eureka Farmers' Market
- Frederic Farmers' Market
- Osceola Farmers' Market
- St. Croix Falls Farmers' Market

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

A Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a unique arrangement between local households and farmers who work together to share the responsibility of producing and delivering fresh food. Households purchase a "share" of the season's harvest. Once harvesting begins, members pick-up their farm share of fresh foods which may include vegetables, fruits, cheeses, eggs, meats, poultry, flowers, herbs or preserves. Some farms offer full or half shares, every other week, worker shares, or pick-your-own shares to reach a variety of household needs. The typical CSA season in Wisconsin runs from the end of May through mid-October but many farms offer early spring shares or winter shares. The CSA model benefits farmers by improving their cash flow in the spring and it guarantees a market for their products. Members benefit by consistently receiving fresh products, delivered conveniently to a nearby dropsite. The whole community also benefits by supporting jobs at local farms and securing a healthy, affordable and accessible food supply.

Polk County is home to at least eight CSAs, which are spread throughout the County.

Community Gardens

Community gardens are shared spaces typically owned by local governments or nonprofits where people can rent a plot and grow fresh produce and plants for their own enjoyment. Community gardens foster a sense of community and offer an opportunity for people to harvest fresh, healthy food, at a low cost. There is currently one community garden in the County. It is Park Rose Marie in the City of St. Croix Falls.

Farm to School Lunch Program

As previously mentioned, there is a Farm to School Program administered through DATCP but there are also other independent efforts occurring throughout the state to connect local farms with school food programs. Currently, there are two schools within Polk County that are exploring their own farm to school lunch programs. Currently there are other schools using produce from school gardens in school lunches around the County. It is expected that other Polk County schools will also launch farm to school lunch programs in the future.

EXISTING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS & PLANS

There are many existing programs, policies, and plans relating to the preservation of farmland in Polk County and this section attempts to highlight them.

Historic Farmland Preservation

In 1979 the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopted a Farmland Preservation Plan. The Plan was intended to guide development away from the most valuable agricultural resources in the County. The plan was written with extensive input from citizens and local officials, especially towns. The Farmland Preservation plan identified several tools for farmland protection. The tools that were implemented were:

- A, Restricting Development to Sewered Lots
- B. Clustering
- C. Implementation of municipal plans
- D. Prohibition of nuisance regulations
- E Agricultural Impact Statements
- F. Agency Cooperation
- G. Exclusive Agricultural Zoning
- H. Farmland Preservation contract agreements

Historically there has been some confusion about the difference between exclusive agricultural zoning, farmland preservation contracts, and the income tax incentive associated with each other. The farmland preservation contracts are a contract between the farmer or landowner and the state, in return for agreeing not to develop his land the owner gets tax rebates based on a formula. The tax rebates are increased if a farmland preservation plan is adopted and certified by the state.

Wisconsin Working Lands Program

The Wisconsin Working Lands Program was passed as a part of the state's 2009-2011 biennial budget process. The authority for this program can be found primarily in Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The goals of the program are to achieve preservation of areas significant for current and future agricultural uses through successful implementation of these components:

- Expand and modernize the state's existing farmland preservation program.
- Establish agricultural enterprise areas (AEAs)
- Develop a purchase of agricultural conservation easement matching grant program (PACE).

Expand And Modernize the State's Existing Farmland Preservation Program

- Modernize county farmland preservation plans to meet current challenges
- Provide planning grants to reimburse counties for farmland preservation planning
- Establish new minimum zoning standards to increase local flexibility and reduce land use conflicts; local governments may apply more stringent standards
- Increase income tax credits for program participants
- Improve consistency between local plans and ordinances
- Simplify the certification process and streamline state oversight

- Ensure compliance with state soil and water conservation standards
- Collect a flat per acre conversion fee when land under farmland preservation zoning is re-zoned for other uses

Establish Agricultural Enterprise Areas

- Maintain large areas of contiguous land primarily in agricultural use and reduce land use conflicts
- Encourage farmers and local governments to invest in agriculture
- Provide an opportunity to enter into farmland preservation agreements to claim income tax credits
- Encourage compliance with state soil and water conservation standards

Develop a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Grant Program

- Protect farmland through voluntary programs to purchase agricultural conservation easements
- Provide up to \$12 million in state grant funds in the form of matching grants to local governments
- and non-profit conservation organizations to purchase agricultural conservation easements from willing sellers
- Stretch state dollars by requiring grants to be matched by other funds such as federal grants, local contributions and/or private donations
- Establish a council to advise the state on pending grants and proposed easement purchases
- Consider the value of the proposed easement for preservation of agricultural productivity, conservation of agricultural resources, ability to protect or enhance waters of the state, and proximity to other protected land
- Ensure consistency of state-funded easement purchases with local plans and ordinances

An income tax credit is available for agricultural properties that are zoned farmland preservation/exclusive agriculture and/or if a landowner signs a long-term farmland preservation agreement and is in an Agricultural Enterprise Area. Whether under zoning or an agreement the land owner's acreage must follows a soil conservation plan or meet state soil and water conservation requirements. In order for landowners to participate in the program, their county must adopt an agricultural or farmland preservation plan and a farmland preservation/exclusive agriculture zoning ordinance which is certified by the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection.

Once a new Farmland Preservation Plan is adopted by the Polk County Board, changes to implement the plan will need to be developed and adopted including amendments to the Polk County Zoning Ordinance, especially the farmland preservation/exclusive agriculture district and related ordinances or programs.

Zoning & Land Division Ordinances

Zoning and land division ordinances may include a variety of standards which apply to agricultural and natural resources, such as agricultural zoning districts, wetland or resource conservancy districts, mineral reservation, shoreland or floodplain overlay districts, conservation subdivision design and other performance standards.

Livestock Facility Siting Ordinances

Polk County does not have a livestock facility siting ordinance.

Manure and Water Quality Management Ordinance

Polk County has adopted a manure storage/animal waste management ordinance under Wisconsin Statutes §92.16 and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) rules. The ordinance has been reviewed by DATCP for consistency with state standards. Generally, these types of ordinances require all new or altered manure storage facilities be liquid tight and meet Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also enforces performance standards and prohibitions related to manure management under NR 151 and ATCP 50, which have been integrated into many county ordinances:

Agricultural performance standards

- Control cropland erosion to meet tolerable rates
- Build, modify or abandon manure storage facilities to accepted standards
- Divert clean runoff away from livestock and manure storage areas located near streams, rivers, lakes, or areas susceptible to groundwater contamination
- Apply manure and other fertilizers according to an approved nutrient management plan

Manure management prohibitions

- No overflow of manure storage facilities
- No unconfined manure piles near waterbodies
- No direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters
- No trampled stream banks or shorelines from livestock

There are many more facilities, some being utilized and some not, that existed prior to the adoption of the County's ordinance. An average of less than one waste storage structures is abandoned each year in Polk County. The County is permitting on average one new waste storage facilities a year. Many of these facilities are constructed on existing operations that are expanding their storage capacities.

The structures themselves have many different liners installed, from cement and clay to high-density polyethylene. The larger operations that have used sand bedding have some form of sand removal prior to the waste going to the storage structure. Such systems include sand lanes and mechanical separators or a combination of both.

Animal operations without any manure storage structures continue to daily haul their animal waste. Those operations with smaller animal waste storage facilities most commonly use tanker trucks to spread the manure in the fields. The majority of the larger operations are using a dragline system for injecting the waste; this has minimized the tanker traffic around facilities.

County Land and Water Resource Management Plans

The County has a County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. This plan is required in order to maintain eligibility for annual funding through the State Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program administered by DATCP. The plans must be updated every five years and must be reviewed by the State Land and Water Conservation Board and approved by DATCP.

Erosion Controls

Polk County controls erosion issues through their storm water management and erosion control ordinance.

Land Trust Organizations

A land trust organization works with landowners, other conservation organizations and government agencies to protect natural areas, wildlife habitat, working forests, agricultural lands, cultural sites, or other unique areas. Typically, a land trust organization will be granted or sold the development rights to a property in the form of a conservation easement in order to prevent development. In some cases, the development right may be held by a local government entity, while the land trust organization holds a third-party enforcement right. Regardless of the approach, landowners often continue to use the property in a land trust as they had in the past, while gaining certain tax benefits. Existing land trust organizations operating in Polk County can be found in *Figure 32*.

Figure 32

Polk	County Land Tru	sts
Name	Location	Area of Operation
Deer Lake	St. Croix Falls, WI	Polk County
The Prairie Enthusiasts	Madison, WI	Polk County and surrounding counties
Standing Cedars Community	Osceola, WI	Polk & St. Croix counties
Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust	Star Prairie, WI	Polk & St. Croix counties
West Wisconsin Land Trust	Menomonie, WI	Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Polk, Polk, & St. Croix counties
Source: West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning	Commission	

Polk County Comprehensive Plan

The Polk County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2009. It addresses goals, objectives, and policies related to the physical development of unincorporated areas in Polk County. In addition, it promotes intergovernmental cooperation between all communities in Polk County.

Regulations & Policies in Polk County

Figures 33 and 34 encompasses city, village, town and county regulations and policies.

Figure 33						50		S		
	u				ce	Extraterritorial Zoning	su	Subdivision Regulations		
	Comprehensive Plan	50		pud	Floodplain Ordinance	Zor	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	ulat	Extraterritorial Plat Review	age
	ve]	Official Mapping		Shoreland or Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Ę	[a]	oix gula	gə	le le	Towns with Village Powers
	nsi	api		or W	Õ	tor	Cro Reg	n R	tor	h V
	ehe	M		nd nd	air	i.E.	St. ay	sio	i.i.	wit
	ıpr	cial	ng	ela ela ing	dp	ate	er (i E	ate	ns ers
	no,	ffi	Zoning	Shoreland or Shoreland/W Zoning]00	xtr	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regul	qn	Extrate Review	Towns Powers
		0				E			E K	T
POLK COUNTY	I		•	•	•		•	•		
CITIES				1					ı	
Amery St. Croix Falls	•		•		•		_			
	•	•	_		•		•			
VILLAGES				1					l	
Balsam Lake Centuria	•	•	•		•					
	•	•	•			•				
Clayton		•				•				
Clear Lake	•		•			•		_		
Dresser	•	•				•		•		
Frederic		•	•	•	•					
Luck	•	т	•							
Milltown	•	I	•		•		•		•	
Osceola Turtle Lake						n County			•	
				۵	вее Батто	m County	/			
Towns Alden	•	•		l l						•
Apple River	•		<u> </u>	u	<u> </u>			<u>u•</u>		•
Balsam Lake			μ	μ	μ			<u>μ</u>		•
Beaver	•			μ	μ			μ		•
Black Brook	•		μ μ	μ μ	<u>μ</u> 			<u>μ</u> μ●		•
Bone Lake			ıu					u•		•
Clam Falls	•				μ					•
	•			μ	μ			μ		•
	•	•	μ	μ	μ μ			μ μ		
Clayton	•	•	μ	μ μ μ	μ μ μ			μ μ μ		•
Clayton Clear Lake	•	•	μ μ μ	μ μ μ μ	μ μ μ μ			μ μ μ μ•		•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka	•	•	μ μ μ μ	μ μ μ	μ μ μ μ			μ μ μ μ•		•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington	•		μ μ μ	μ μ μ μ μ	μ μ μ μ μ		μ	μ μ μ• μ•		•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield	•		μ μ μ μ	μ μ μ μ μ	и и и и и и		μ	μ μ μ• μ• μ•		•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown	•		μ μ μ μ •	и и и и и и	и и и и и и		μ	р р р р р р р		•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown	•		μ μ μ μ	и и и и и и и	и и и и и и и		μ	µ µ µ µ µ µ µ µ		•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown	•	•	μ μ μ μ • μ	и и и и и и и	и и и и и и и		μ			•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown Lincoln	•		μ μ μ μ • μ μ	и и и и и и и и	и и и и и и и и и		μ			•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown Lincoln Lorain	•	•	μ μ μ φ μ μ μ μ	д д д д д д д д	и и и и и и и и		μ			•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown Lincoln Lorain Luck	•	•	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ	д д д д д д д д	и и и и и и и и и и		μ			•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown Lincoln Lorain Luck McKinley	•	•	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ	д д д д д д д д д	и и и и и и и и и		μ			•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown Lincoln Lorain Luck McKinley Milltown	•	• •	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ	д д д д д д д д д	и и и и и и и и и и и и					•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown Lincoln Lorain Luck McKinley Milltown Osceola	•	• •	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ	д д д д д д д д д д			щ			•
Clayton Clear Lake Eureka Farmington Garfield Georgetown Johnstown Laketown Lincoln Lorain Luck McKinley Milltown	•	I	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ	д д д д д д д д д	и и и и и и и и и и и и					•

⁼ Regulation or Policy adopted by the jurisdiction; may be part of a larger ordinance = County regulations which apply to a city, village or town = In-progress or under consideration

	Г									
Figure 34	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
POLK COUNTY						•			•	
CITIES										
Amery									μ	
St. Croix Falls	•			•	•	•	•	•	μ	
VILLAGES										
Balsam Lake	•			•		•	•	•	μ	
Centuria				•		•	•	•	μ	
Clayton			•	•	I		•	•	μ	
Clear Lake									μ	
Dresser				•			•	•	μ	
Frederic				•		•		•	μ	
Luck									μ	
Milltown				•			•	•	μ	
Osceola			•		•		•	•	μ	
Turtle Lake		l			see Barro	n County	,			ı
Towns						·				
Alden	•				•	μ		•	μ	
Apple River						μ		•	•	
Balsam Lake						•			μ	
Beaver						μ			μ	
Black Brook				•		μ	•	•	μ	
Bone Lake									μ	
Clam Falls						μ	•	•	μ	
Clayton						μ			μ	
Clear Lake				•		μ			μ	
Eureka					I	μ			μ	
Farmington				•			•	•	μ	
Garfield				•	•		I	I	μ	
Georgetown						μ			μ	
Johnstown						μ			μ	
Laketown						F*			μ	
Lincoln	I					μ		I	μ	
Lorain						μ			μ	
Luck	1					μ			μ	
McKinley						μ			μ	
Milltown						μI	I		μ	I
Osceola						μ	-		<u>μ</u> μ	_
St. Croix Falls	•			•		μ	•	•	<u>μ</u> μ	
Sterling									<u>μ</u> μ	
West Sweden						μ			μ μ	
. , est s eden	I	I	l l		l	μ			μ	ı

⁼ Regulation or Policy adopted by the jurisdiction; may be part of a larger ordinance = County regulations which apply to a city, village or town = In-progress or under consideration

AGRICULTURE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Preserve and Protect Farmland in Polk County

Objectives:

- Preserve productive agricultural lands through evaluation and implementation of innovative preservation and development techniques, such as the purchase or transfer of development rights and agricultural planning programs.
- 2) To encourage residential development to locate within or adjacent to existing developments and to require rural residential development to meet county and town site standards.
- 3) Utilize Farmland Preservation Zoning as a tool to preserve farmland.
- 4) To encourage commercial development to locate within areas which have the capacity to provide necessary services and which provide safe and convenient access for their patrons.
- 5) To encourage planned or conservation development in rural areas.
- 6) Avoid fragmentation of farmland.
- 7) To channel industrial development into industrial parks that have the capacity to provide the necessary services and which are located so as to minimize land use conflicts.
- 8) The County will encourage the use of the Farmland Preservation Plan as one tool to protect agricultural land
- 9) Promote financial incentives for permanent farmland preservation
- 10) Support the separation of incompatible land use practices that reduce potential conflicts between agricultural and other land uses.

Policies:

- 1) The County will establish zoning standards for commercial and industrial land uses clearly related to agricultural production in the farmland preservation areas wherever the respective town will support it.
- 2) Agriculture-related commercial and industrial developments should be compatible with adjacent land uses and located on non-productive soils
- 3) Polk County will use the county Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system to identify and protect productive farmland

- 4) The county will develop and maintain a county Farmland Preservation Plan and ordinance that can be certified by the state to make Polk County producers eligible for state Farmland Preservation tax credits
- 5) The county will establish a farmland preservation area consistent with the Chapter 91, Wisconsin Statutes and the Farmland Preservation program. The farmland preservation area will be countywide, consisting of all parcels with a LESA composite score of 150 or above that are eligible to be included based on Chapter 91 standards
- 6) The delineation of the farmland preservation zoning districts to implement the plan shall be developed cooperatively between the county and towns that are willing to adopt it
- 7) The county will amend the Polk County Zoning Ordinance to establish multiple agricultural zoning districts to accommodate diverse agricultural activities, agricultural management and related businesses
- 8) Require agricultural impact statements are filed whenever agricultural land is condemned for transportation, recreation, or utility use
- 9) The county will encourage the use of the Farmland Preservation Program as one tool to protect agricultural land
- 10) The county will support local landowner petitions to establish Agricultural Enterprise Area's (AEA's). The county will support the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program
- 11) The county will establish a producer advisory group to evaluate the LESA scoring system and make recommendations based on LESA system
- 12) In implementing the plan, the farmland preservation area will be land that is eligible and recommended for farmland preservation zoning, Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) and/or Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)
- 13) The county will establish incentives/regulations to encourage development in existing areas that are able to accommodate new development, such as zoning, density bonus in areas other than farmland preservation areas, etc.
- 14) Limit non-agricultural development upon Polk County's prime and statewide significant agricultural land (Soil Classes I, II, and III)

Goal #2: Support the Business Aspects of Agriculture

Objectives:

- 1) Develop & implement a comprehensive economic development program to support, expand and enhance agriculture as a viable economic activity in Polk Co.
- Continue and expand direct services, marketing assistance and on-demand technical assistance provided to farmers through University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) programs.
- Maintain a diverse agricultural base: (i.e. cows, corn, beans, local produce, organic, CSA).
- 4) The Polk County Economic Development Corporation and other economic development practitioners will work to attract, retain, and expand Ag processors and machinery businesses as well as build programs that support agriculture related businesses.
- 5) Provide programs to expand markets for Agricultural products.
- 6) Support farm marketing programs that promote Polk County agriculture and help farmers improve their profitability.
- 7) The County will support financial incentives for beginning farmers and farm succession programs for existing operations
- 8) Promote locally grown and sustainable agricultural enterprises.

Policies:

1) Limit the passage of "nuisance regulations" which restrict agricultural operations

Goal #3: Protect the Natural Resources of Polk County

Objectives:

- 1) Encourage farmers to follow Best Management Practices to minimize erosion and groundwater and surface water contamination.
- 2) Enhance policies to manage nutrient applications on agricultural land to maintain agricultural productivity but does not negatively affect water quality.
- 3) Maintain presently owned public lands for recreation, historic and natural resources.
- 4) Promote forest crop management practices to enhance the county's forested areas. Towns may choose to develop preservation measures to meet the specific preservation needs of their town's woodlands.

- 5) Create and pursue innovative cost sharing programs to protect natural resources.
- 6) Administer and promote cost-sharing programs for soil conservation practices.

Goal #4: Provide educational programs to foster awareness around agricultural activities and the importance of agriculture in Polk County.

Objectives:

- 1) Provide programs to support education of non-farm public about right-to-farm and the rural nature of Polk County.
- 2) Increase awareness of the importance of protecting the viability of the local agriculture industry.
- 3) Provide information about agricultural production to foster understanding and tolerance between farmers and their residential neighbors.
- 4) Provide training and educational services to farm laborers and farm managers.
- 5) The County will promote programs/awards in the county that recognize quality agricultural producers.

APPENDIX A - FARMLAND PRESERVATION SURVEY REPORT

Appendix C - Quantitative Summary of Responses by Question

Polk County Farmland Preservation Survey – 2012

Please return by November 29, 2012

Using blue or black ink, please fill the circle that most closely matches your response on the following questions.

Like this: Not like this: 🕡 🗴

IN THIS SECTION WE WANT YOUR OPINION ABOUT A RANGE OF FARMLAND ISSUES

KEY AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

_	What is your opinion about the following agricultural esource issues/concerns?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
1.	I could currently find productive/quality farmland to rent or buy in Polk County	5%	37%	15%	21%	2%	19%
2.	Productive farmland will generally NOT be available in 20 years in Polk County	4%	31%	12%	39%	5%	9%
3.	Finding suitable land on which to spread manure is difficult	5%	22%	24%	28%	4%	16%
4.	Fragmented land and smaller parcels are making farming more difficult in Polk County	18%	47%	10%	12%	3%	10%
5.	Groundwater supply and availability in Polk County are generally adequate	6%	58%	14%	10%	3%	9%
6.	Quality of groundwater in Polk County is good	13%	63%	10%	8%	1%	5%
7.	Quality of surface water in Polk County is good	6%	48%	21%	19%	2%	4%
8.	Please add any comments about key agricultural issues in the	box below.					

Please add any comments about key agricultural issues in the box below

See Appendix B

IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL TRENDS

What is your opinion about the future agriculture issues/concerns in Polk County?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
 Mergers among <u>input suppliers</u> (feed, seed, chemical, etc), have seriously reduced competition (raised prices paid) 	10%	40%	20%	12%	3%	15%
 Mergers among <u>processors/buyers</u> have seriously reduced competition (lowered prices received) 	8%	32%	26%	16%	2%	16%
 Government environmental regulations to protect air, soil and water resources are reasonable 	11%	37%	19%	21%	8%	4%
 Direct marketing to consumers will become more important to my farm/ag business over the next 20 years 	14%	35%	22%	12%	1%	16%
 Global agricultural markets benefit my farming operation/ag business 	14%	28%	24%	11%	1%	21%
 The income and benefits from an off-farm job are necessary to maintain my farm operation 	20%	30%	17%	10%	5%	19%
 I purchase local foods from farmers markets, community supported agriculture, community gardens, or other local suppliers 	16%	48%	19%	10%	1%	6%

16. Please add any comments about impact of agricultural trends in the box below.

See Appendix B

AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

What is your opinion about the following infrastructure issues/concerns?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
 The current road network in Polk County is adequate for agricultural needs for the next 20 years 	9%	50%	8%	24%	3%	6%
 In the future there is likely to be a shortage of grain storage facilities in Polk County 	4%	24%	23%	28%	1%	20%
19. I have adequate access to financial services	9%	59%	15%	6%	1%	11%
 Access to start-up capital for individuals entering agriculture is adequate 	5%	22%	18%	28%	8%	20%
 Polk Co. needs more local machinery repair, supply and parts businesses 	7%	41%	21%	15%	1%	15%
22. Polk Co. needs more agricultural processing facilities	6%	36%	29%	11%	2%	15%
 Polk County needs to increase availability of direct farm marketing locations/facilities 	8%	44%	24%	6%	3%	13%
24. I have adequate access to veterinary services	10%	58%	15%	1%	1%	15%
25. I have adequate access to Farm Co-op services	12%	57%	13%	3%	1%	15%

26. Please add any comments about agricultural infrastructure in the box below.

See Appendix B

LAND ISSUES

What is your opinion about the following land issues/concerns	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
27. Population growth and related development will significantly reduce farmland in Polk County over the next 20 years	19%	53%	7%	17%	1%	4%
 Transitioning farm ownership to the next generation is a major concern 	30%	48%	9%	6%	1%	6%
 I would be interested in selling the development rights on my farm land (would prohibit future non-agricultural development on your land) 	8%	23%	26%	19%	8%	15%
30. When I reach retirement age I intend to sell my land for non-agriculture development	2%	4%	27%	30%	18%	19%
 Conflict between farm operations and nearby non-farm uses is a major concern. 	12%	39%	22%	20%	1%	5%
32. Exclusive Ag Zoning is an important land use tool for Farmland Preservation	19%	48%	13%	10%	3%	7%
33. Please add any comments about land issues in the box below.						

IN THIS SECTION WE WANT YOUR OPINION ABOUT $\underline{\text{THE IMPORTANCE OF FARMLAND POLICIES}}$

AGRICULTURAL GOALS FOR POLK COUNTY

How important is it for Polk County to have policies/programs on the following:	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion
34. Policies to limit non-ag development in ag areas	23%	44%	19%	4%	6%	4%
35. Plan for residential development in specific areas	31%	46%	13%	3%	3%	3%
36. Policies to manage nutrient applications on ag land	28%	36%	25%	4%	2%	6%
37. Cost sharing programs for soil conservation practices	21%	39%	19%	11%	4%	6%
38. Financial incentives for permanent farmland preservation	26%	30%	21%	11%	6%	6%
 Programs to support education of non-farm public about agricultural practices 	24%	42%	20%	8%	3%	4%
40. Programs to expand markets for agricultural products	26%	40%	18%	6%	4%	7%
 Programs to increase/expand/support local food initiatives (Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture, Community Gardens, etc.) 	23%	35%	25%	8%	5%	4%
42. Provide financial resources for new farm start-ups	24%	38%	20%	8%	3%	8%
12 PL 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1						

43. Please add any comments about agricultural goals for Polk County in the box below.

See Appendix B

INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS FOR POLK COUNTY

How important is it for Polk County to have policies/programs on the following:	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion
 Programs/Regulations to keep land in agriculture over the next 20 years 	31%	38%	16%	4%	6%	5%
 Programs to ensure supply of qualified agricultural labor over next 20 years (e.g. ability to run large equipment), 	20%	37%	25%	8%	5%	5%
 Programs to ensure supply of agricultural managers over next 20 years 	14%	36%	26%	11%	6%	8%
 Second language programs for agricultural workers and managers over the next 20 years 	4%	30%	21%	23%	16%	6%
48. Programs to recruit equipment & machinery supply businesses	6%	33%	34%	13%	5%	8%
 Town, Village, or County administered programs to support permanent Farmland Preservation 	25%	31%	27%	6%	5%	6%
50. Please add any comments about infrastructure goals in the	box below.					

See Appendix B

AG-RELATED ENTERPRISE GOALS FOR POLK COUNTY

54. Please add any comments about agricultural enterprise goals for Polk County in the box below.

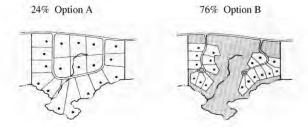
How important is it for Polk County to have policies/programs on the following:	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion
 Policies to attract/expand ag input supply enterprises (feed, seed, chemical, etc.) 	9%	37%	31%	9%	4%	9%
52. Policies to attract/expand ag processing enterprises	12%	40%	30%	4%	4%	10%
53. Programs to encourage local suppliers for small farms	23%	40%	23%	4%	4%	6%

See Appendix B

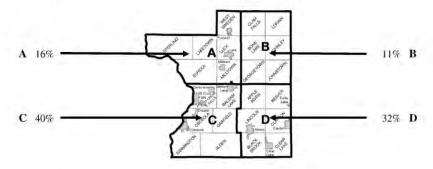
55. Which of the following activities/enterprises do you have on your farm/business? (check all that apply)

18%	Dairy	45%	Row Crop	19%	Forestry	
21%	Beef	8%	Tree Farm	12%	Other Crop	
11%	Horses	2%	Nursery	18%	Conservation Programs	
10%	Other Livestock	16%	Fruit/Vegetable	18%	Other	

56. Would you prefer housing built in a traditional design (Option A) with larger individual lots (e.g. 1 acre) and no shared open space or a conservation design (Option B) with smaller individual lots (e.g., ½ acre) and shared open space? Please fill the circle for either Option A or Option B below to indicate your preference.



57. Please use the following map to fill in the bubble matching the quadrant (A, B, C or D) of Polk County in which a <u>majority</u> of your farm acreage/business is located.



58. Please add any additional comments about farmland preservation in Polk County in the box below:

See Appendix B

DEMOGRAPHICS

59. Gender	Male	Female						
	82%	18%						
60 Age	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+		
60. Age	0%	4%	7%	17%	35%	36%		
61. Employment Status	Employed full-time		lf — loyed	Employed part-time	Unemployed	Retired	Other:	-
	29%	3	3%	8%	0%	25%		0%
62. Highest level of	Less tha		gh school iploma	Some college/tech	Tech colleg graduate	e Bachelo degre		Grad or professional deg
Education	1%		19%	28%	10%	30%		12%
63. How many years have you lived in	0 to :	5 years		5.1 – 10 years	11	to 20 years		Over 20 years
Polk County?	2	1%		3%		13%		79%
	If you far	m, pleas	e continu	ie. If you do	not farm, pl	ease stop he	re.	
	0		1	2	3	4		5+
64. Number of children (under 18) in household	81%		6%	6%	5%	19	70	0%
						1.7		070
	<40 acre	s 40-	150 acres	151-500 acr	es 501-100 acres			070
65. How many acres do you operate?	< 40 acre 28%	s 40-	150 acres 25%	151-500 acr	PS	0	acres	0.0
		s 40-			es acres	>1000	acres	0.70
	28%	s 40-	25%	27%	es acres	>1000	acres	o n
you operate? 66. Crop Land Status 67. What percentage of	28% Own	s 40-	25% Rent	27% Both 44%	es acres	>1000	acres	76% - 100%
you operate? 66. Crop Land Status	28% Own 52%		25% Rent 3%	27% Both 44%	acres 10%	> 1000	acres	
you operate? 66. Crop Land Status 67. What percentage of acres farmed are	28% Own 52% 0%		25% Rent 3% 1% - 259	27% Both 44% 6 26	acres 10% % - 50%	51% - 7:	acres	76% - 100%

APPENDIX B - POLK COUNTY'S LESA SYSTEM

LESA Scoring System

Property Evaluation

1. Number of contiguous acres in agriculture

Acres	Points
120 and up	14
100 – 119	10
80 – 99	8
60-79	6
40-59	4
20-39	2
0-19	0

This factor is used to determine the potential of agricultural uses on and around a property. In many cases, if a property has few contiguous agricultural acres, it limits opportunities for farming because it is more difficult to operate many agricultural operations on smaller parcels. The higher the number of contiguous acres makes a parcel more valuable for a wider range of agricultural options.

2. Percent of land feasible for agriculture on property

Percent	Points
90% and up	14
75% - 89%	10
50% - 74%	6
25% - 49%	2
Less than 25%	0

This factor is used to determine the existing or potential agricultural use for a property. The higher percentage of land feasible for agriculture on a property, the stronger it should be preserved for agricultural purposes.

3. Existing Land Use Policy

Does the applicable plan recommend a property to be agricultural or forest?

Yes 14 No 0

This factor is used to determine what the local community has planned for a specific parcel. With public input, communities develop and implement land use plans to help create and preserve a community that they want. This factor promotes local processes and authority by placing value on land use plans.

4. Agricultural Preservation Contracts or Exclusive Agriculture Zoning

Is there an existing contract for a property to be conserved as agriculture?

	Points
Property	12
Adjacent	9
Adjacent to ½ mile	6
½ to 1 mile	3
Over 1 mile	0

This factor is used to determine what restrictions have been placed on a property. These options include all contracts or zoning that ensures the property will remain in agriculture. This includes farmland, timber, and all other types of agriculture (e.g. Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop, Exclusive Agriculture, Farmland Preservation Contracts, and the Agriculture Enterprise Area Boundary). These agreements are decided by property owners at their own discretion. This factor promotes a property owners decision to conserve his or her property as agriculture.

Compatibility of surrounding area

5. Surrounding property land use

	Points
All sides are agriculture	12
3 sides are agriculture	9
2 sides are agriculture	6
1 side is agriculture	3
0 sides are agriculture	0
•	

This factor is used to determine how well an existing property fits into its immediate surroundings. Land used for agriculture is most valuable for that use if contiguous with other properties that are also used for agriculture.

6. Percent land zoned for agriculture within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile

Percent	Points
90% and up	10
75% - 89%	6
50% - 74%	4
25% - 49%	2
Less than 25%	0

This factor is used to determine how the property fits into a larger area. If a property is located in an area that is dominated by agricultural zoning, it is more likely that the property and surrounding area will remain zoned and used as agriculture. If a property has significant non-agricultural zoning within a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the site, there is a higher likelihood of land use conflicts and development pressures.

7. Surrounding property future land use

	Points
All sides zoned agriculture	12
3 sides zoned agriculture	9
2 sides zoned agriculture	6
1 side zoned agriculture	3
0 sides zoned agriculture	0

This factor is used to determine how well an existing property fits in with its immediate surroundings' planned uses. Land used for agriculture is most valuable for that use if contiguous with other properties that are also planned to be used for agriculture. With public input, communities develop and implement land use plans to help create and preserve a community that they want. This factor promotes local processes and authority by placing value on land use plans.

8. Distance to an incorporated municipality/population center

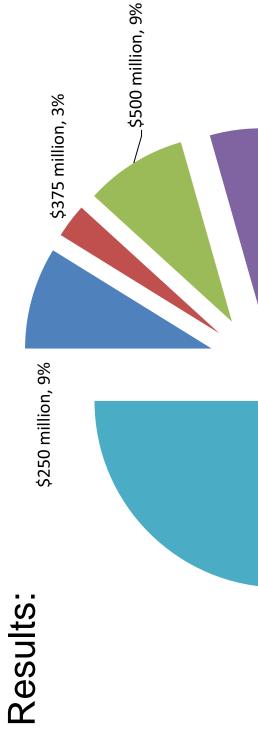
	<u>City/Village</u>	<u>Hamlet</u>
	Points	Points
Over 1 mile	12	12
½ mile to 1 mile	6	9
1/4 mile to 1/2 mile	4	6
Adjacent to ¼ mile	2	3
Adjacent	0	0

This factor is used to determine how compatible a property is with urban development. If a parcel is adjacent to an incorporated municipality and/or population center, it is likely that the property will soon be developed and/or there will be various conflicts between the agricultural operations and the urban/suburban development.

Appendix C

Public Input Workshops Results

Ice Breaker Question: What is the economic impact of agriculture in Polk County?

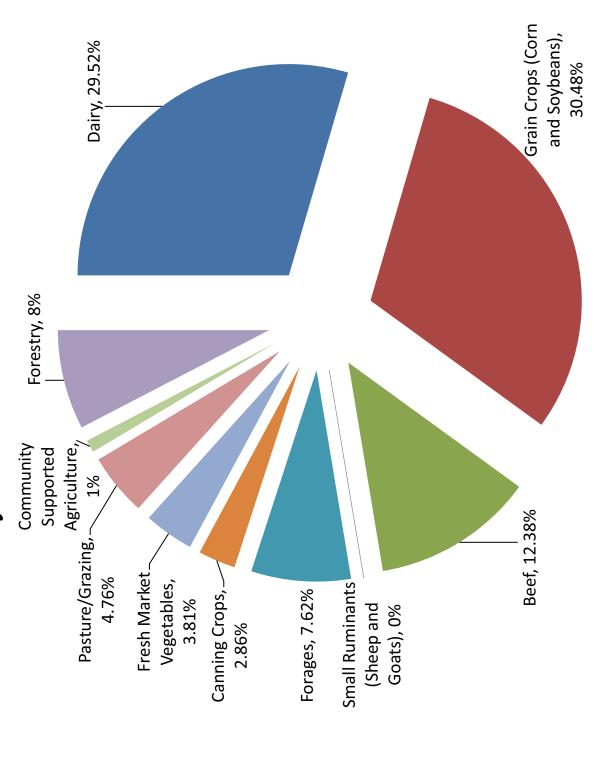


Correct Answer is \$725 million

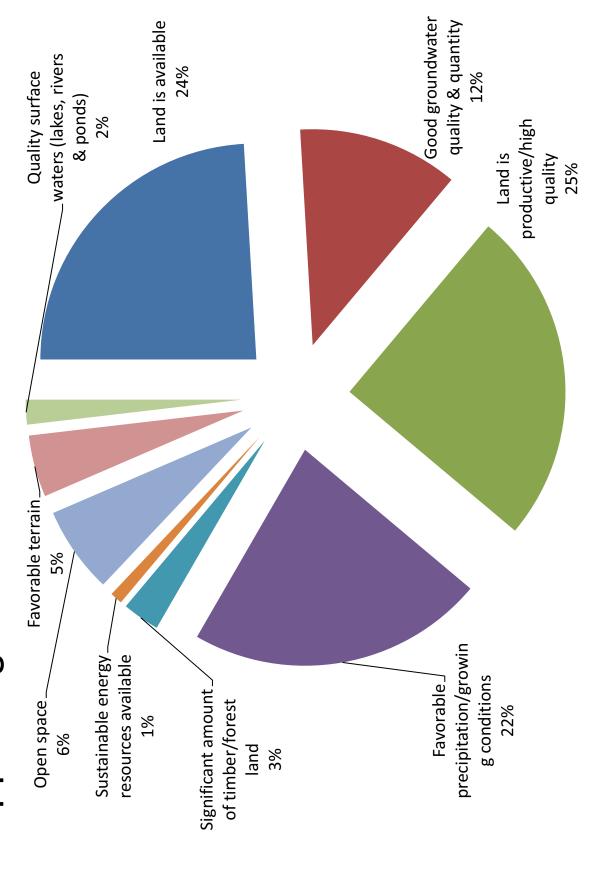
\$670 million, 12%

\$725 million, 68%

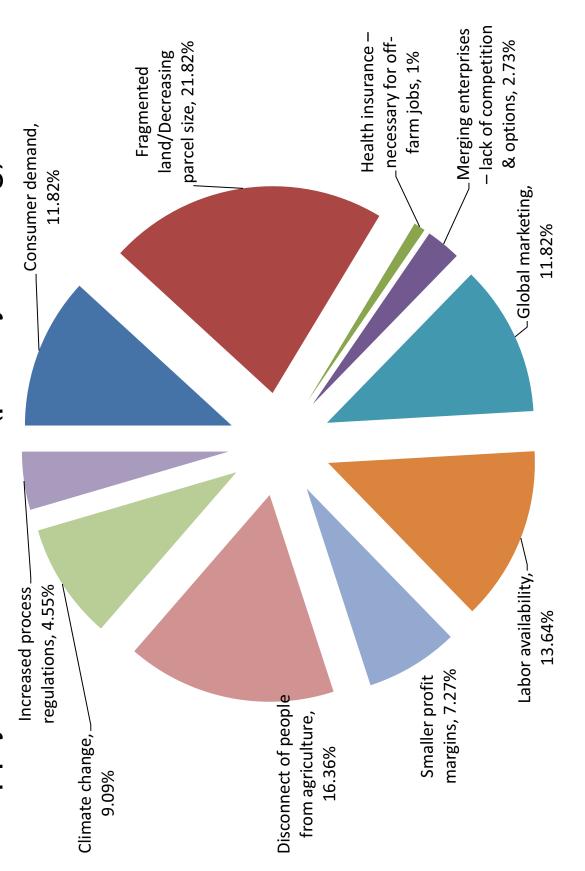
#1) What are the important agricultural uses of land in Polk County?



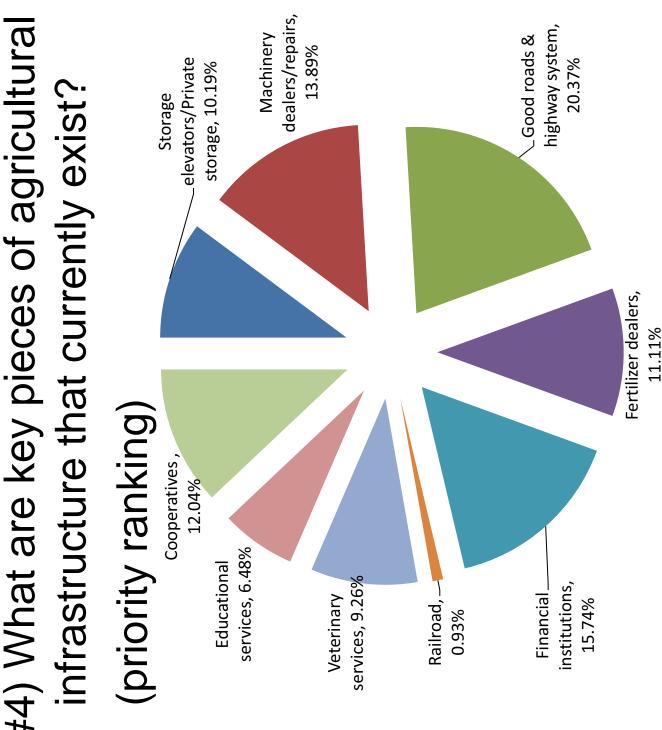
#2) What are key natural resources that support agriculture?



#3) What are the anticipated changes and how will they affect agriculture, production, processing, supply and distribution? (priority ranking)

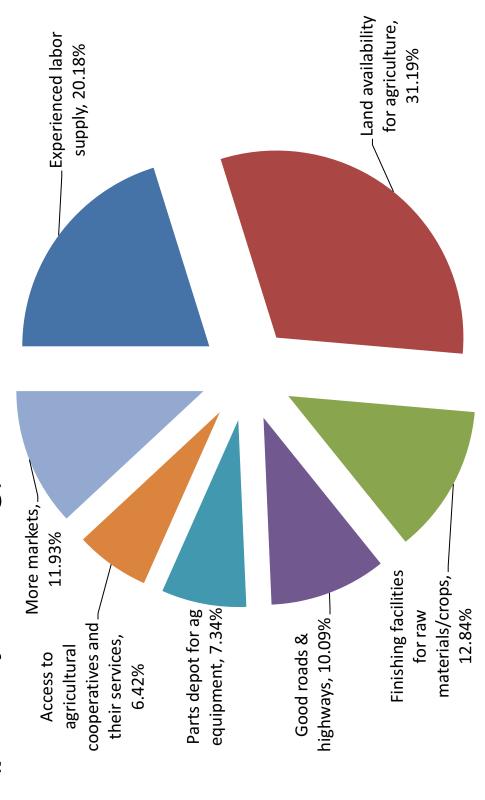


#4) What are key pieces of agricultura infrastructure that currently exist?

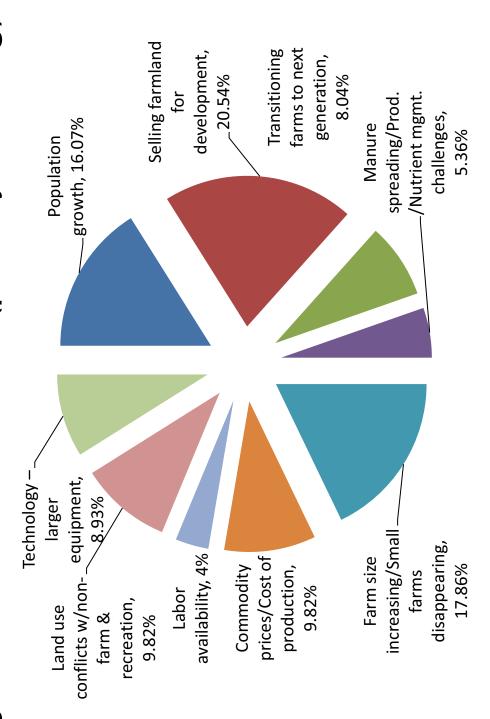


#5) What are key pieces of agricultural infrastructure that are needed?

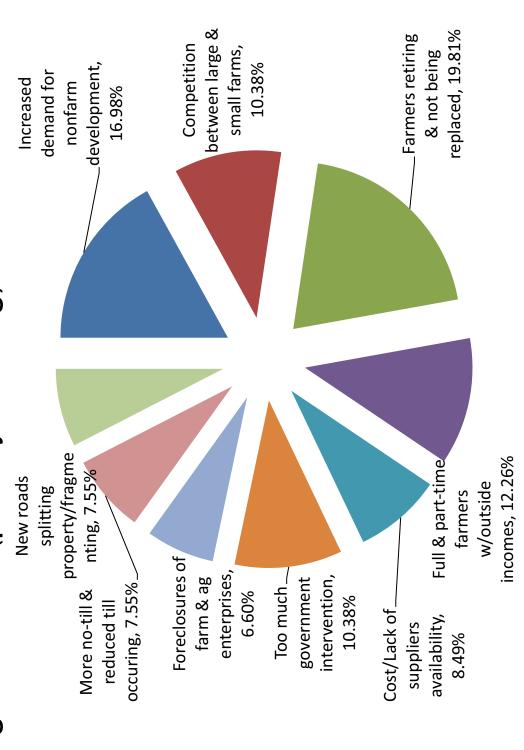
(priority ranking)



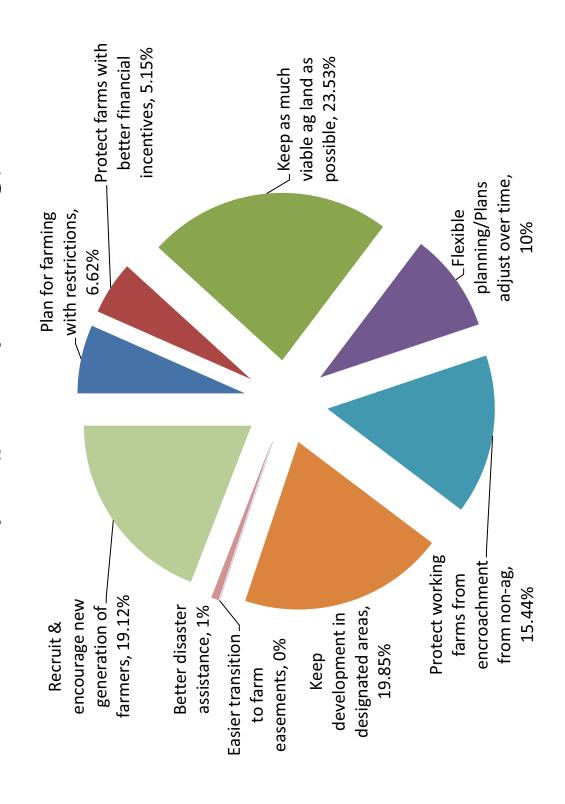
agricultural land use and the conversion of #6) What are the significant trends affecting ag land to other uses? (priority ranking)



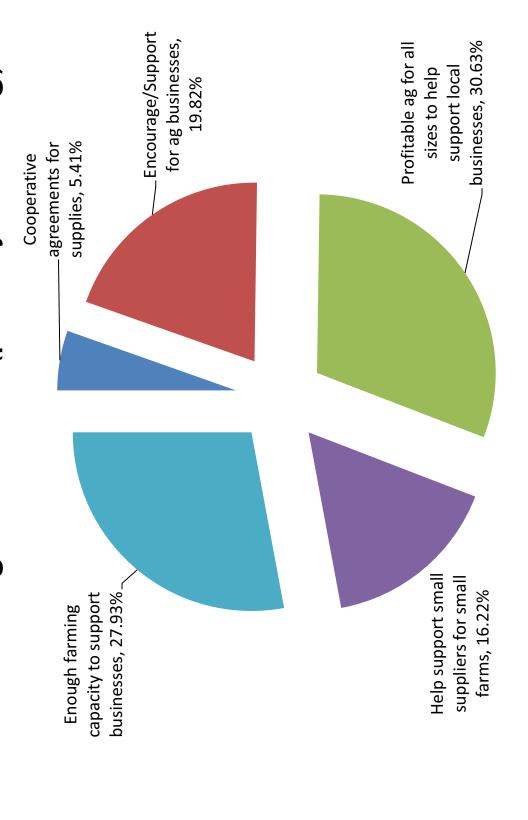
agricultural production and enterprises related to #7) What are the significant trends affecting agriculture? (priority ranking)



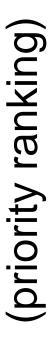
#8) What should our goals be for agriculture in Polk County? (priority ranking)

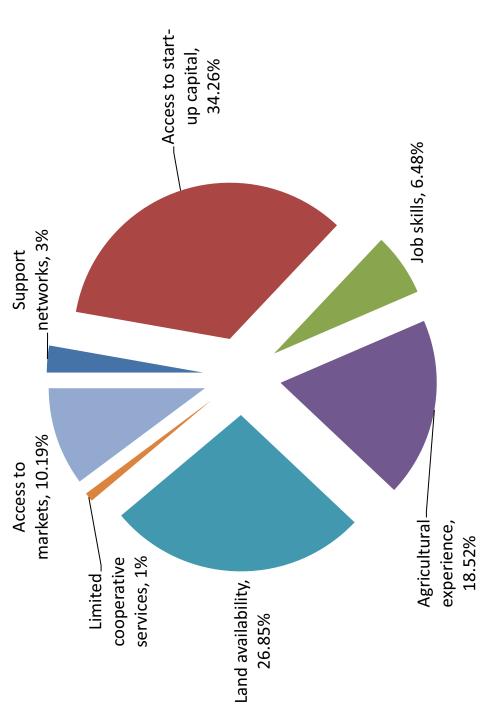


#9) What should our goals be for enterprises related to agriculture? (priority ranking)

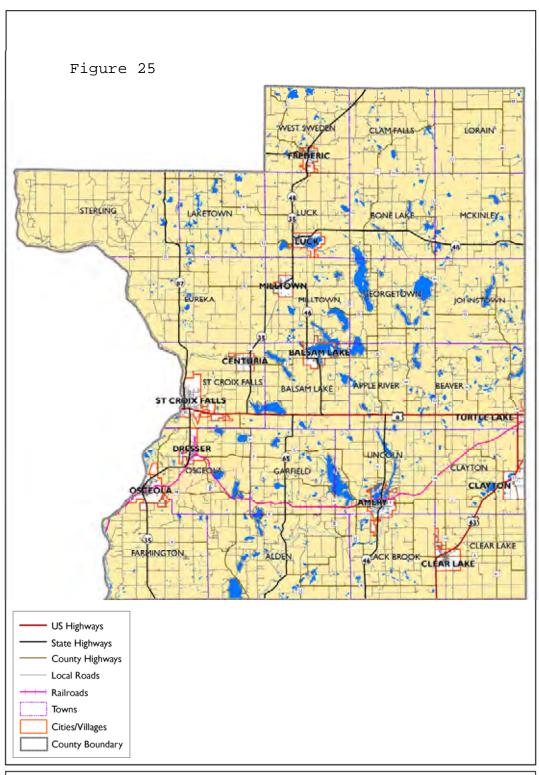


#10) What are some barriers for individuals interested in entering agriculture?





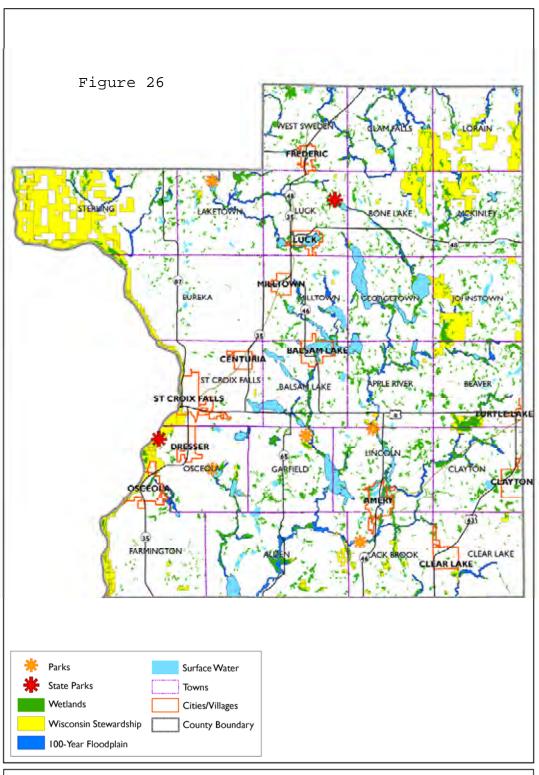
Appendix D Maps





TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
Polk County, WI

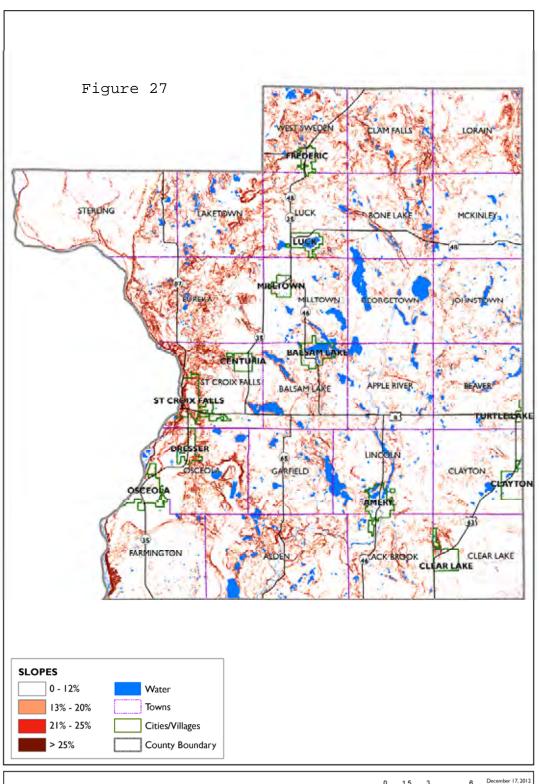






ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

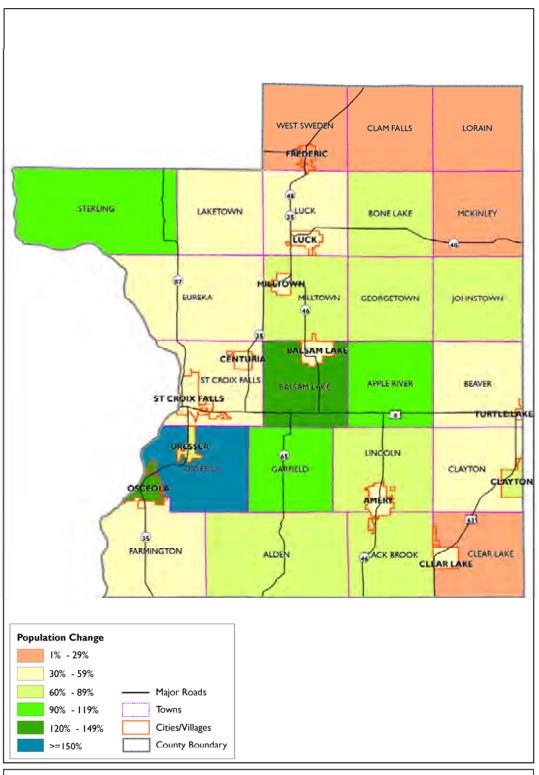






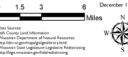
SLOPES
Polk County, WI

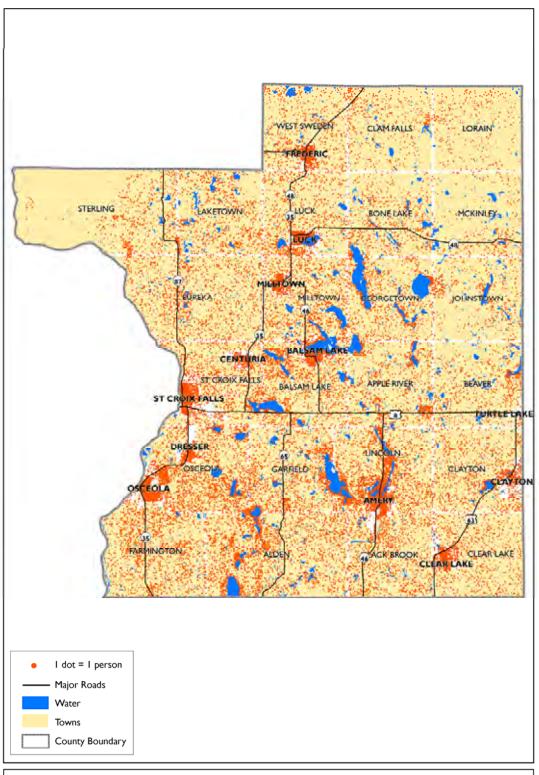






POPULATION CHANGE BY MUNICIPALITY (1970 - 2010)

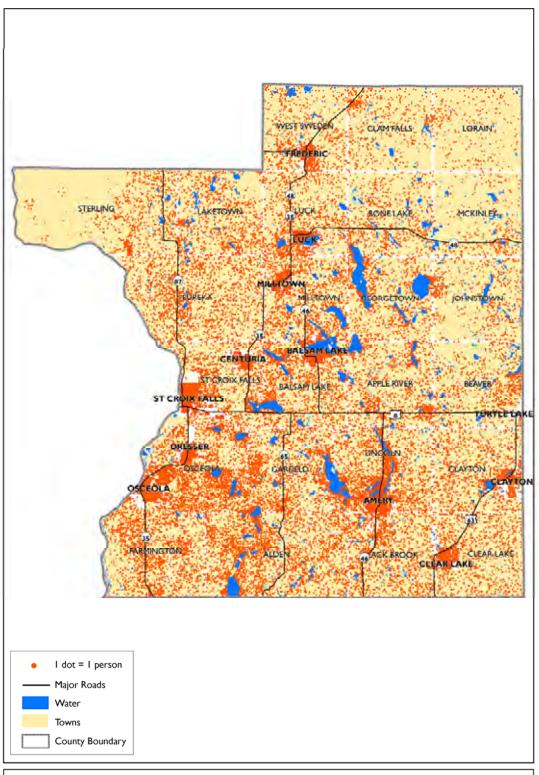






POPULATION DENSITY (2000)

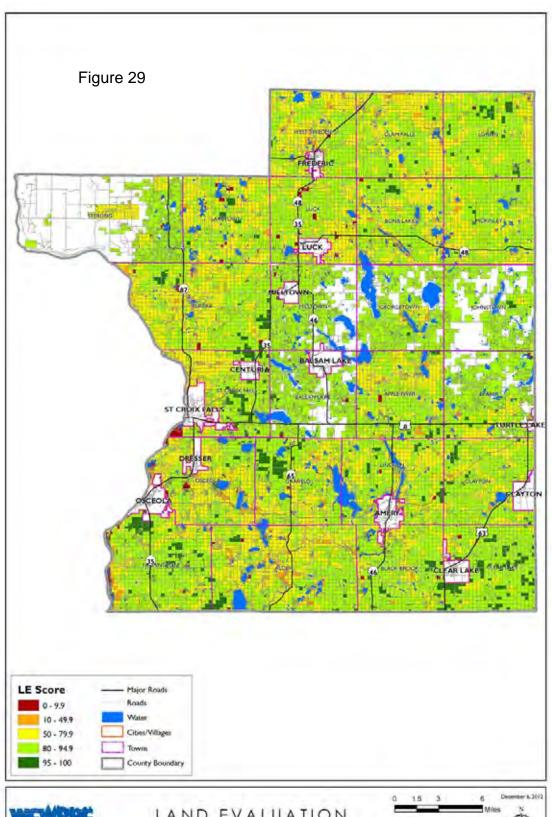






POPULATION DENSITY (2010)

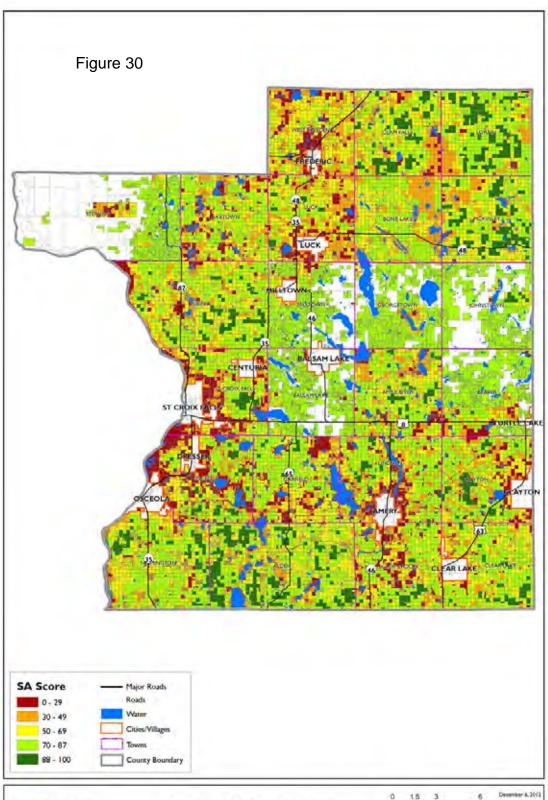






LAND EVALUATION

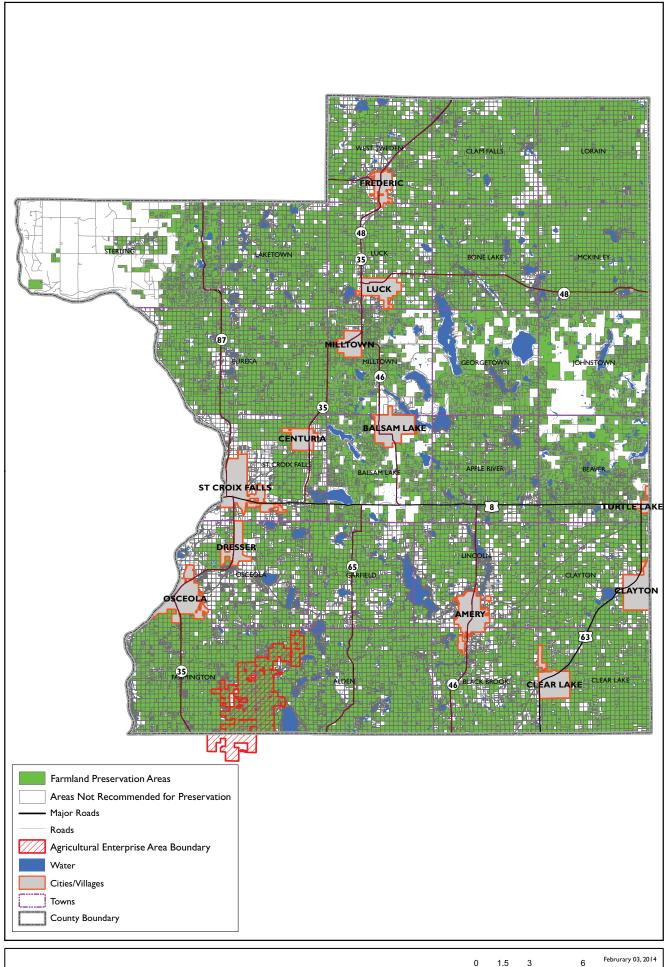


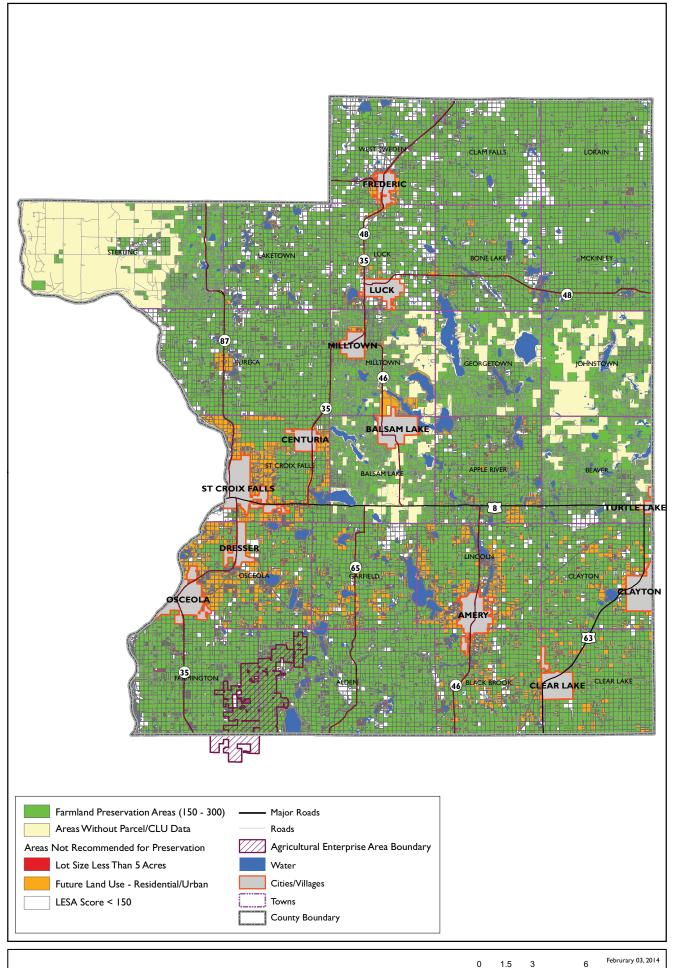


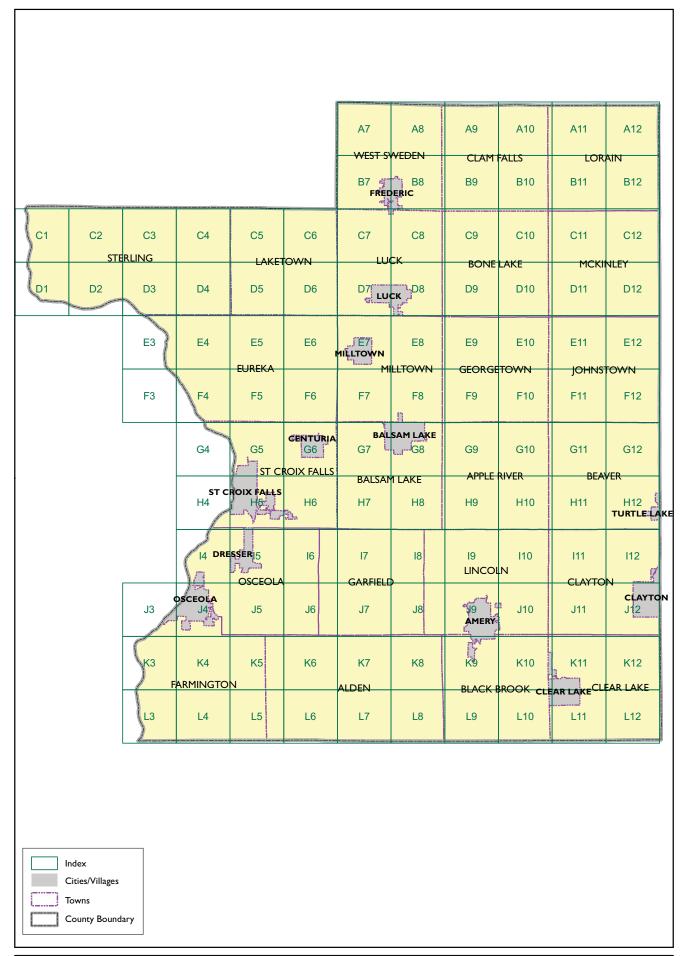


SITE ASSESSMENT





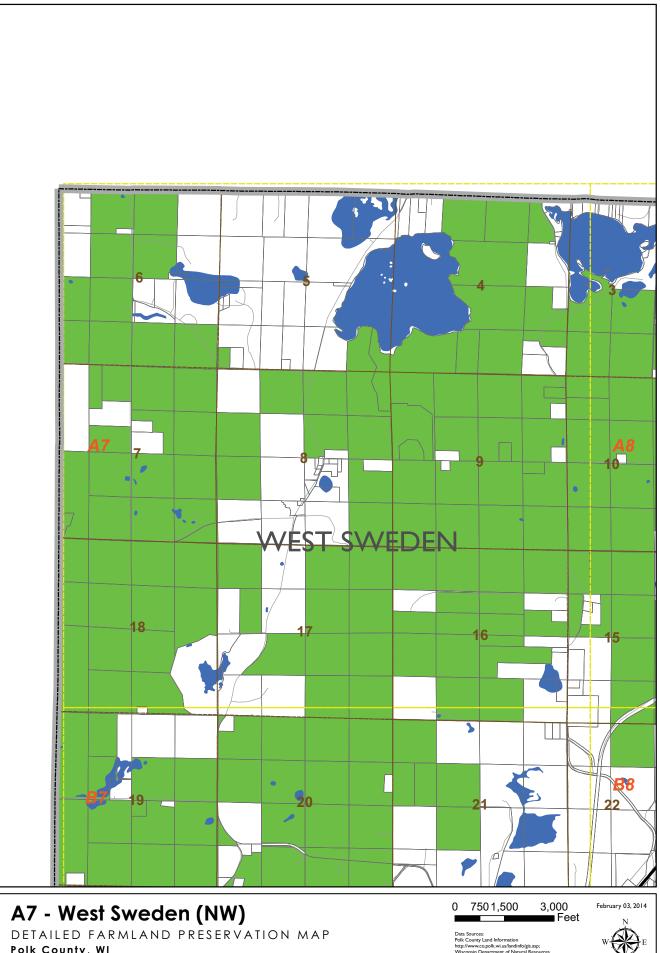


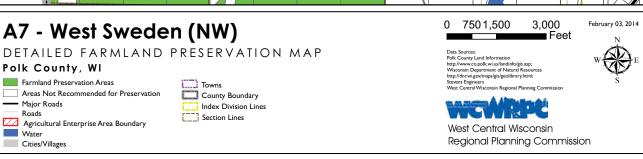


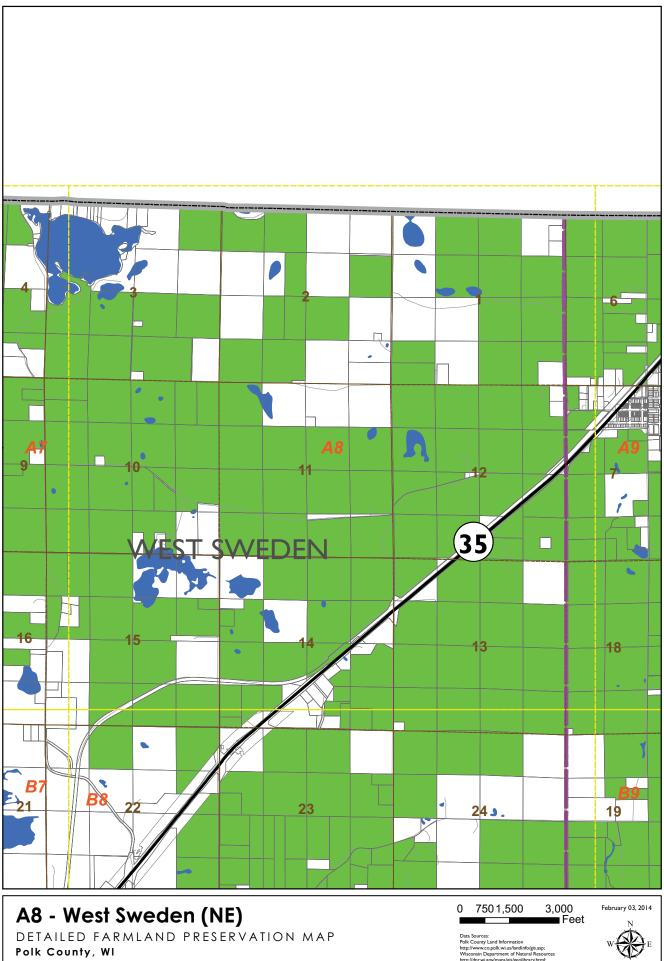




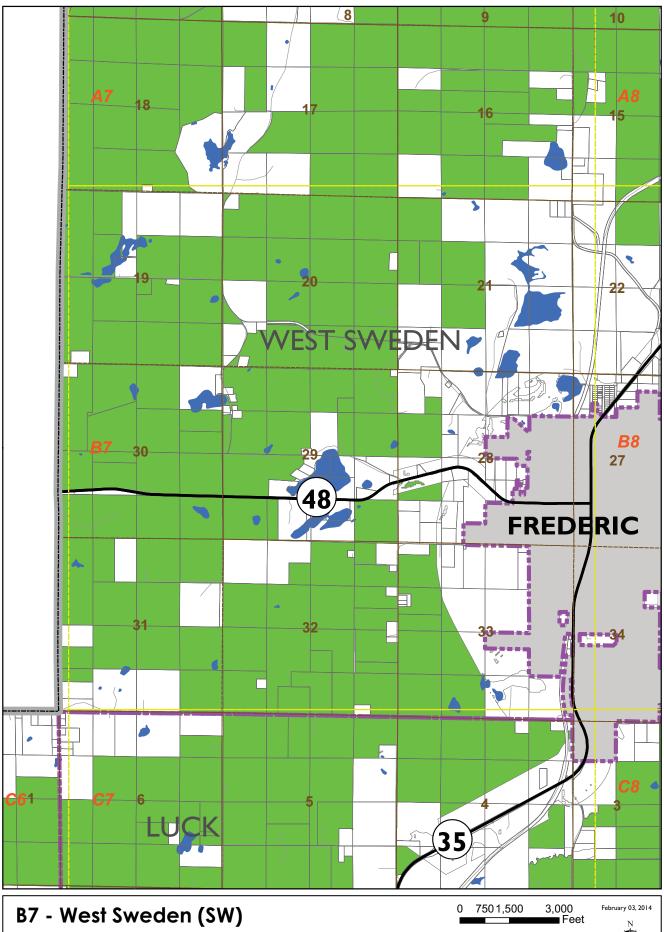


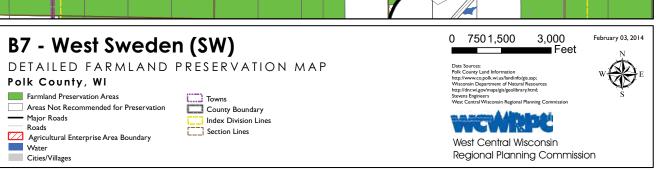


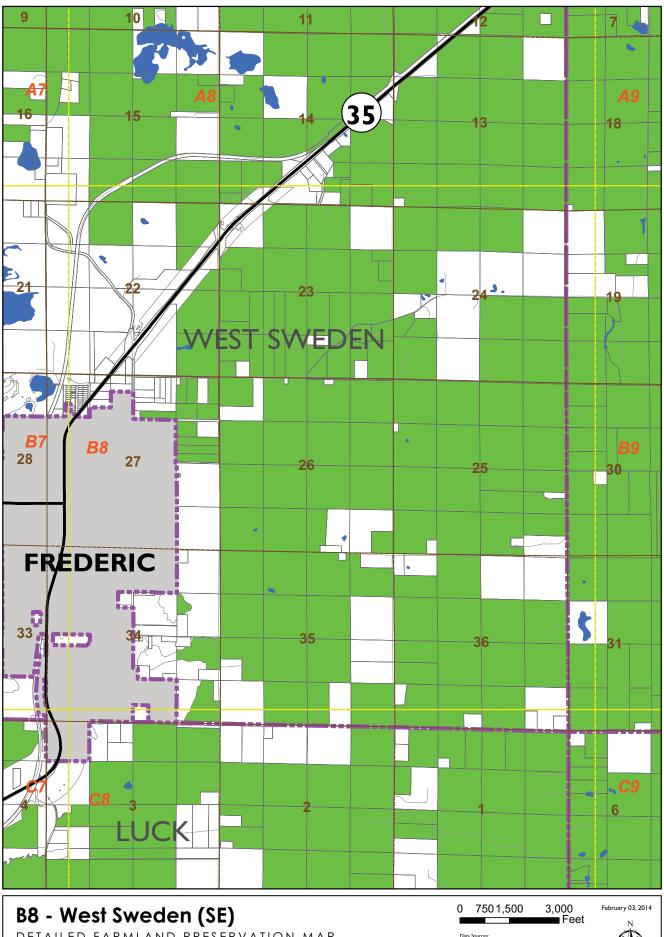




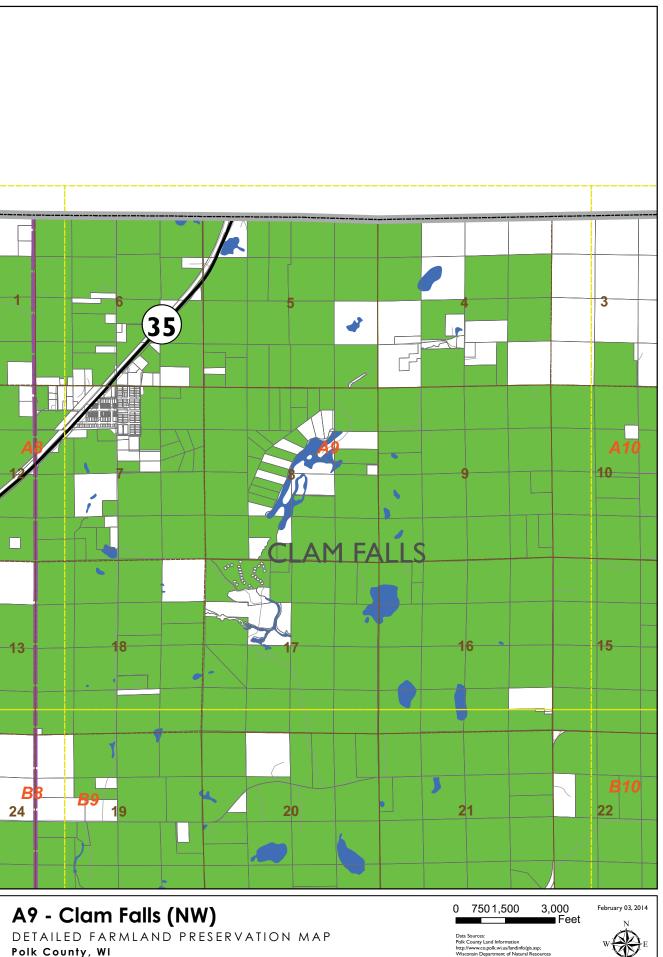
A8 - West Sweden (NE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 201February 03, 201-

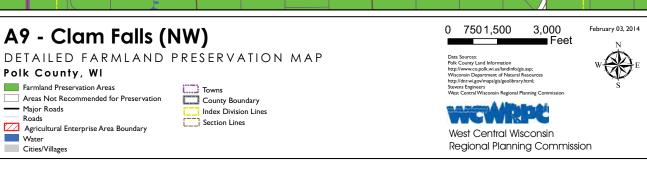


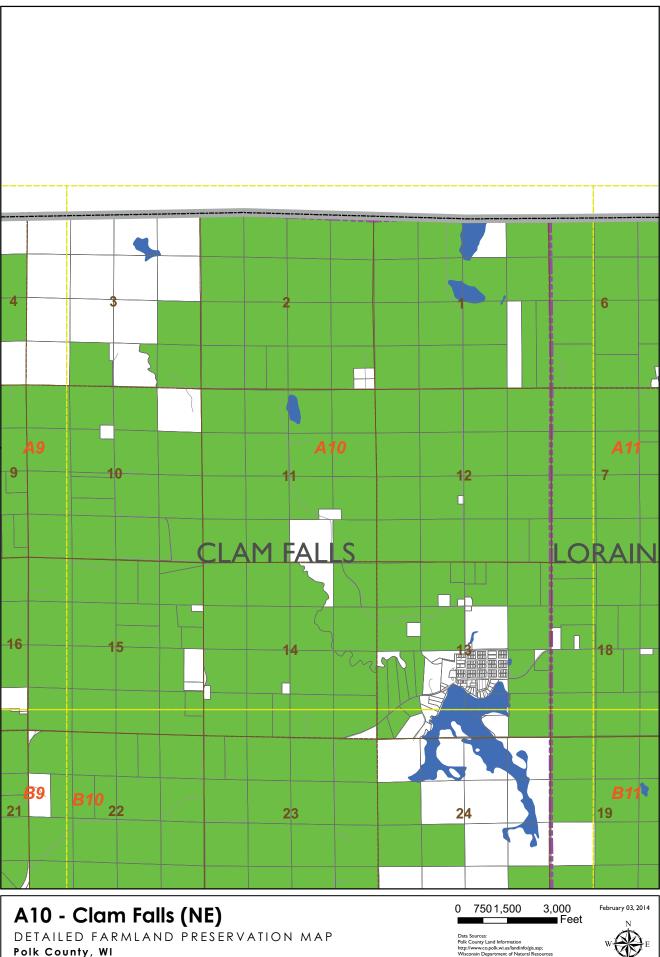


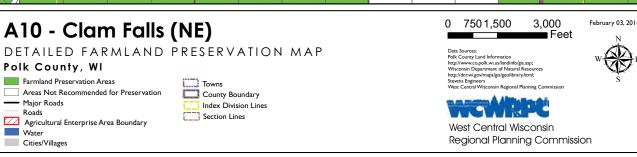


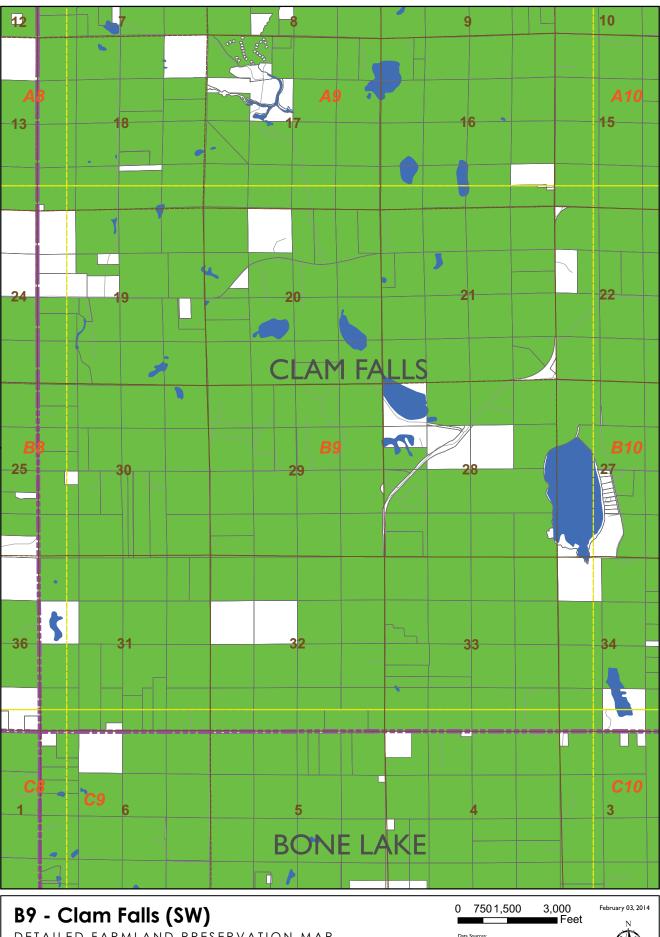
B8 - West Sweden (SE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages Data Source: Polk County January County Boundary West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Permanand Preservation Areas West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission





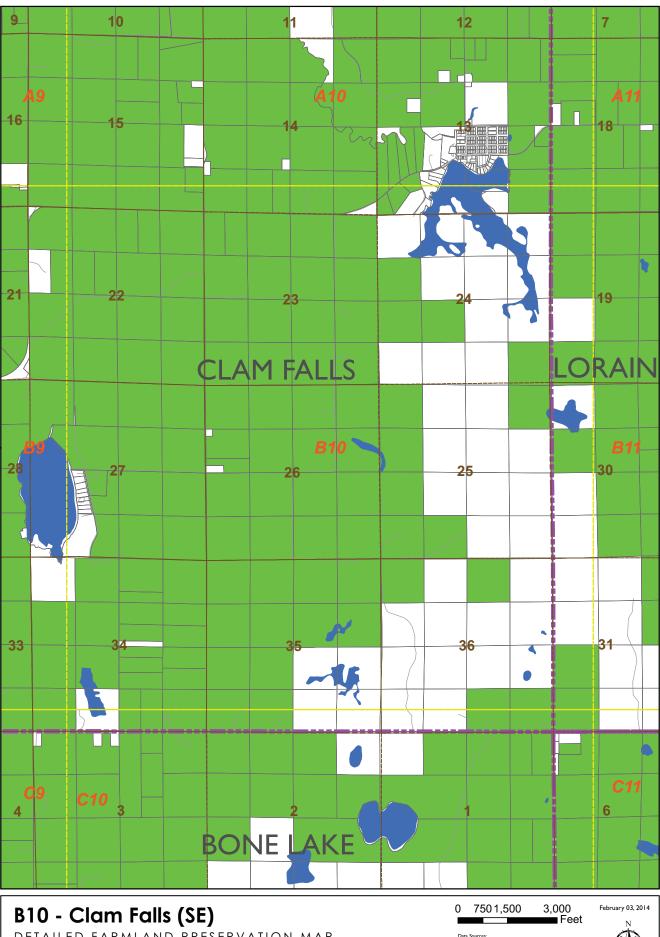


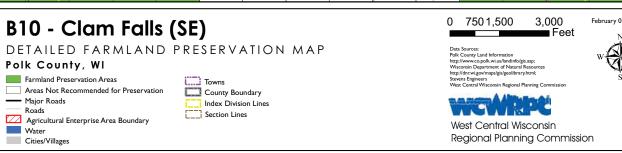


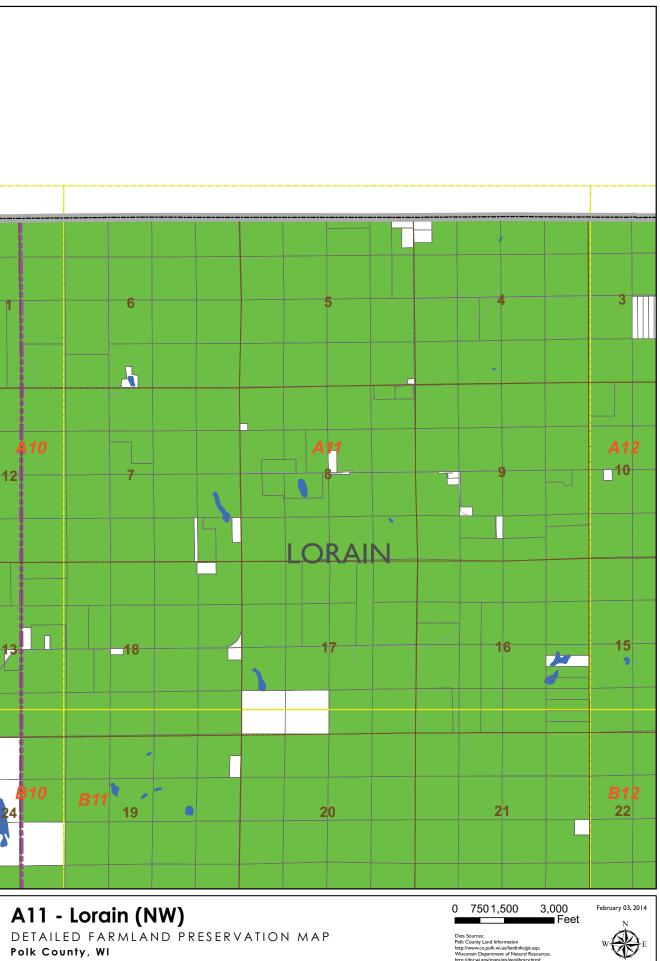


B9 - Clam Falls (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages









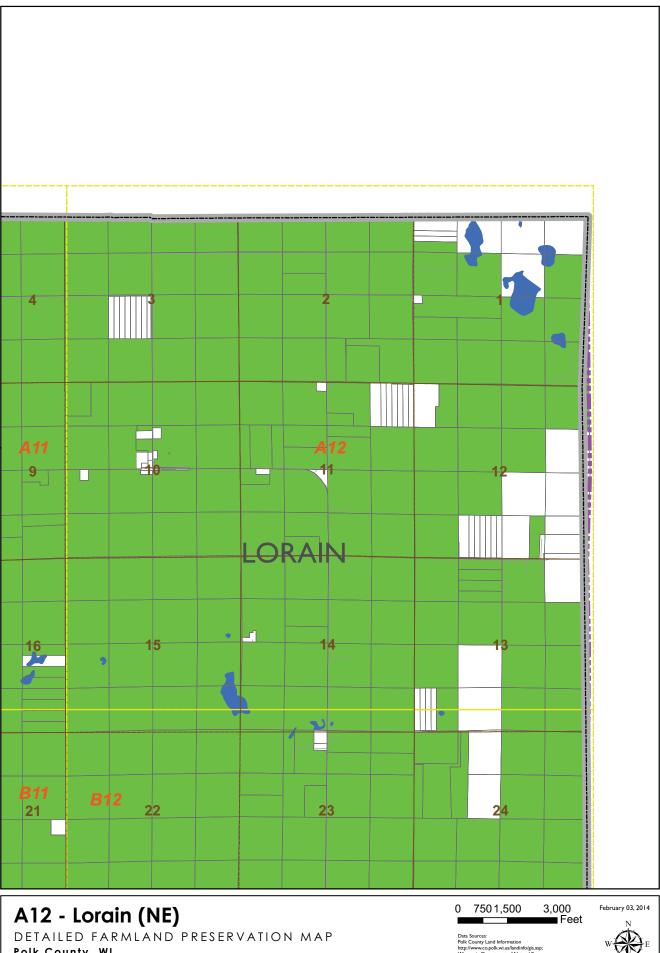


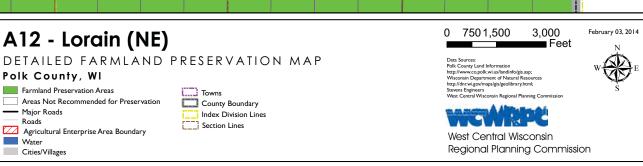
O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014

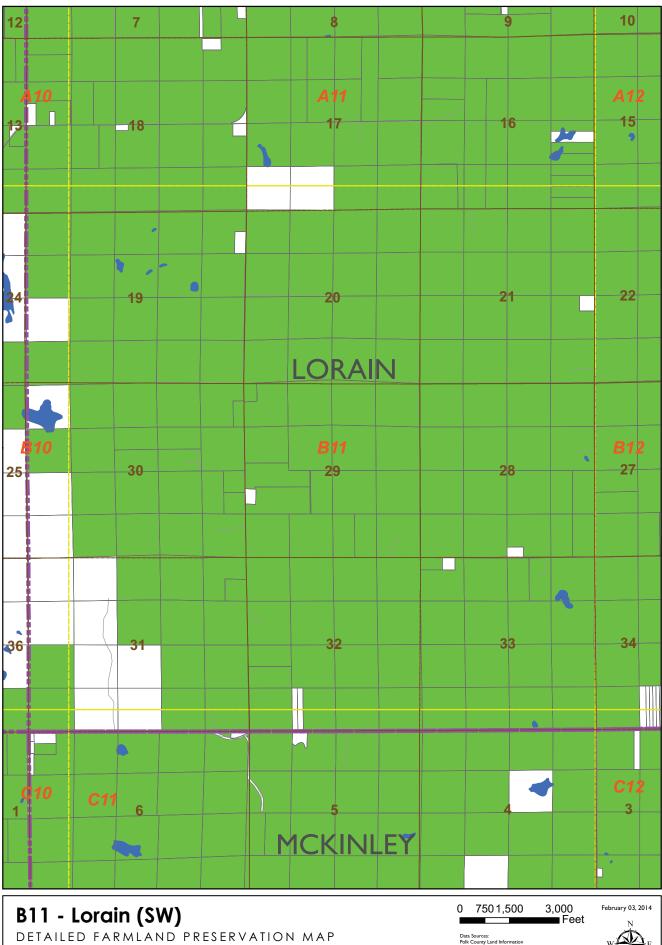
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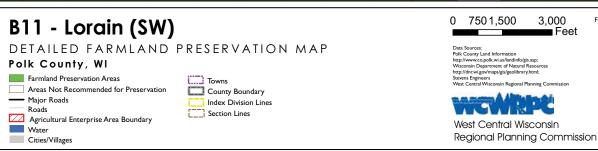
Data Sources:
Polik County Land Information
Inttp://www.co.polik.wiu.infandinfo/igis asp;
Wrisconian Department of Natural Resources
Inttp://dnr.wi.gov/imaps/gis/geolibrary.htm;
Stevents Engineers
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

West Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission



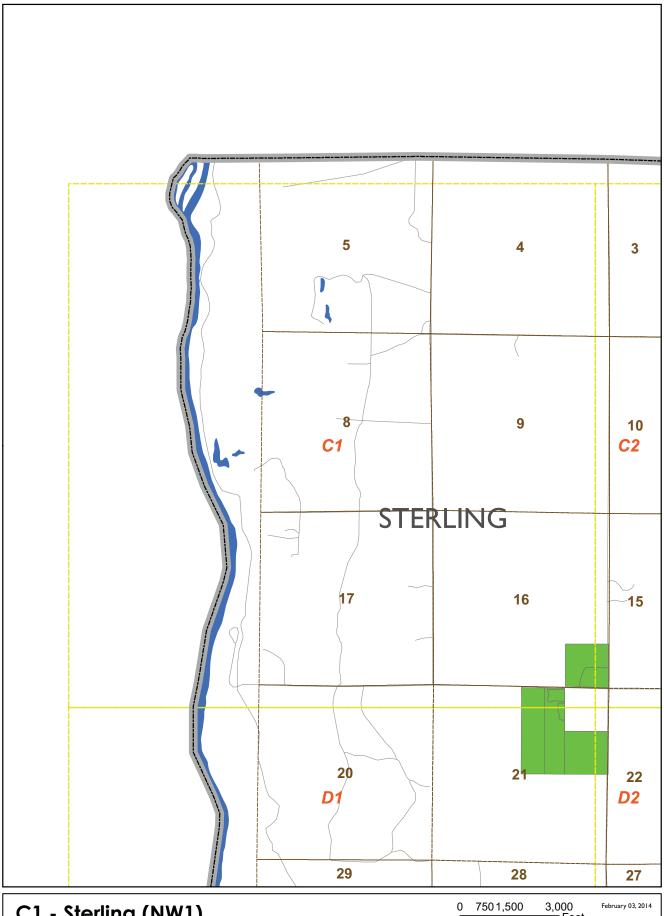


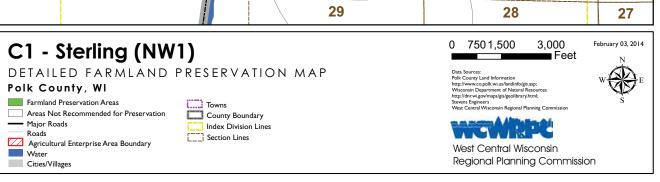


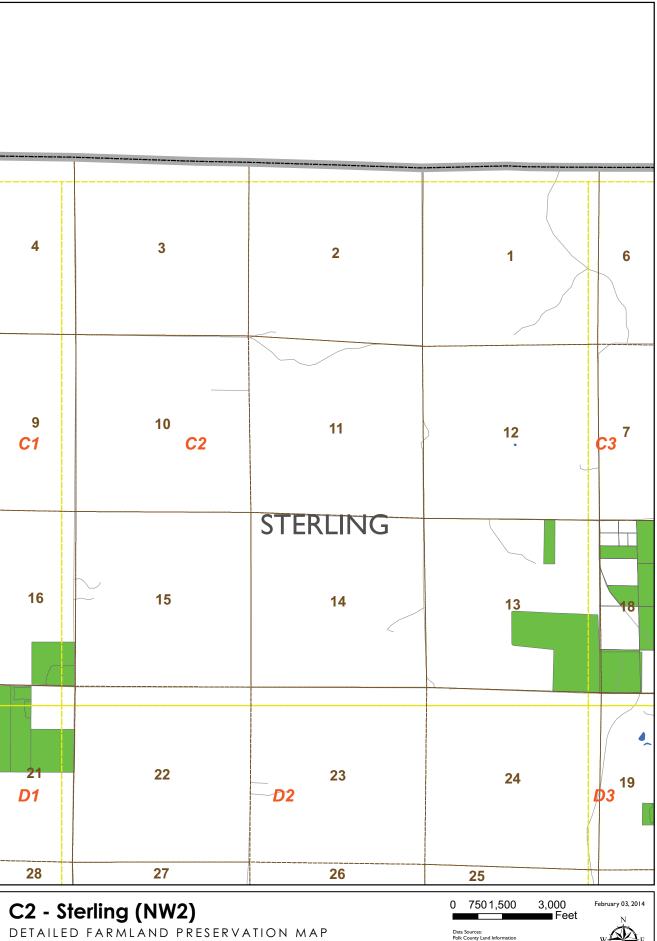


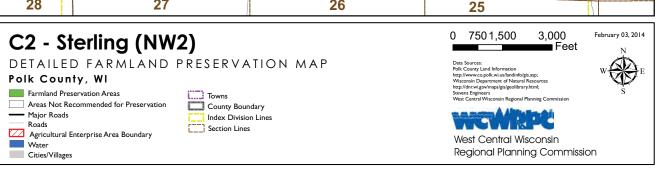


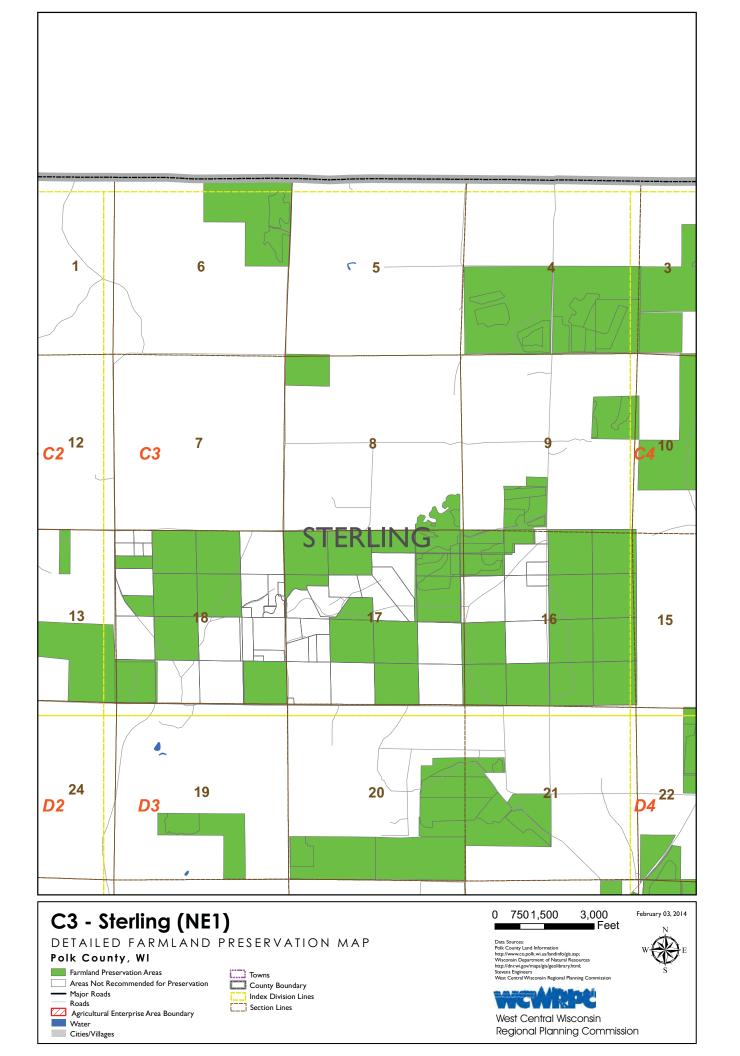


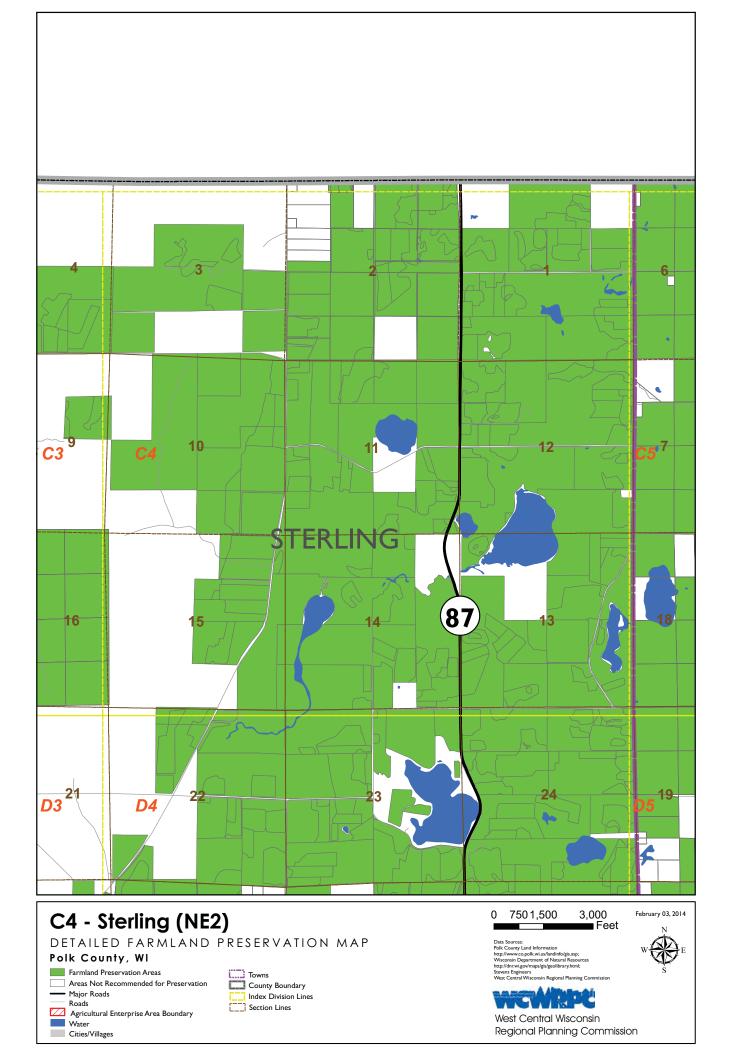


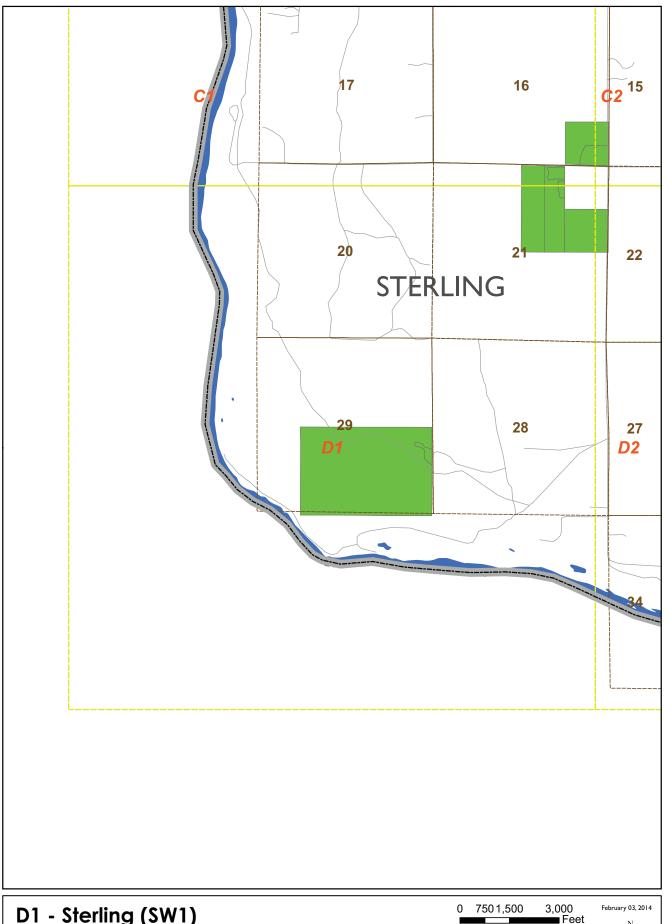


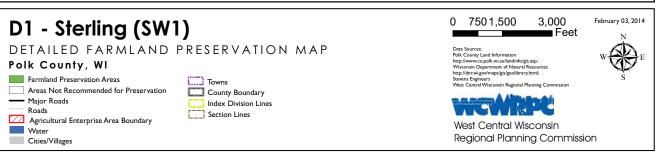


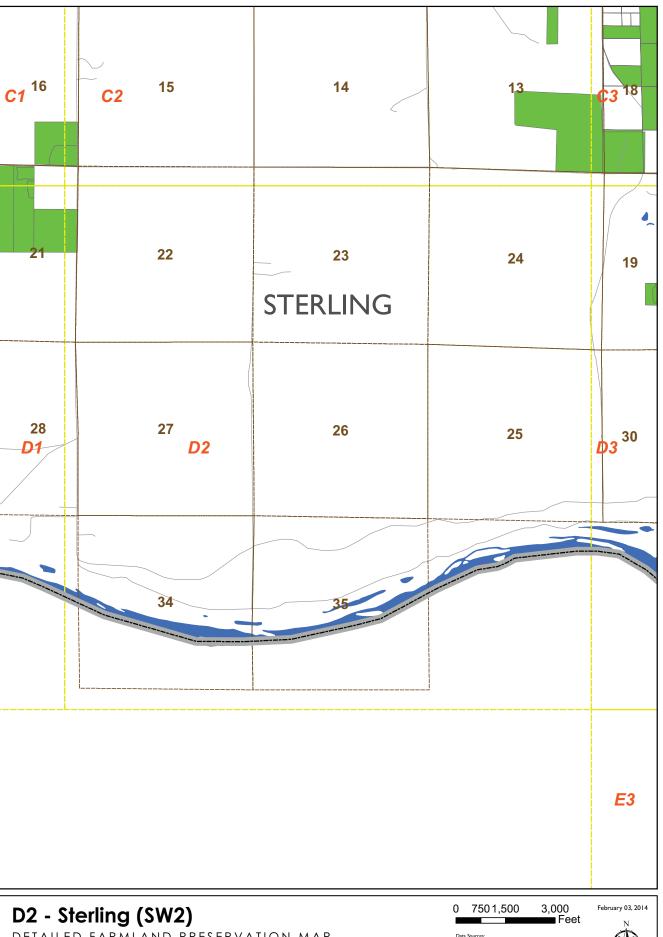


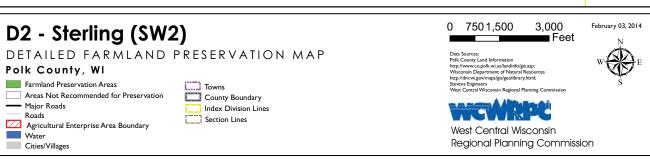


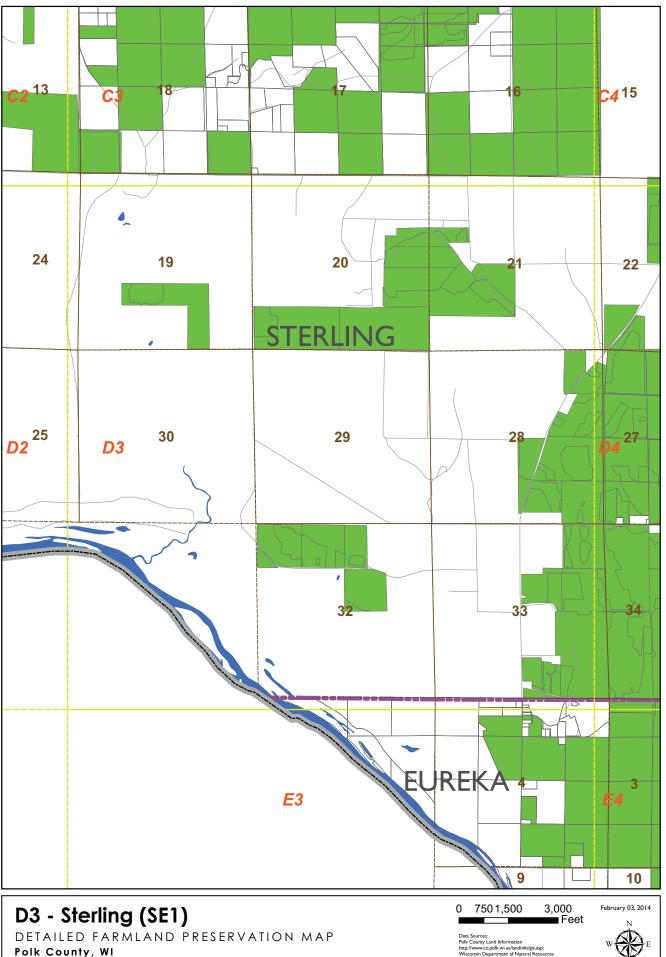


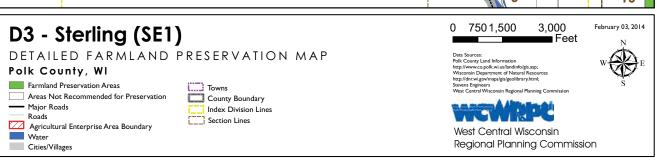


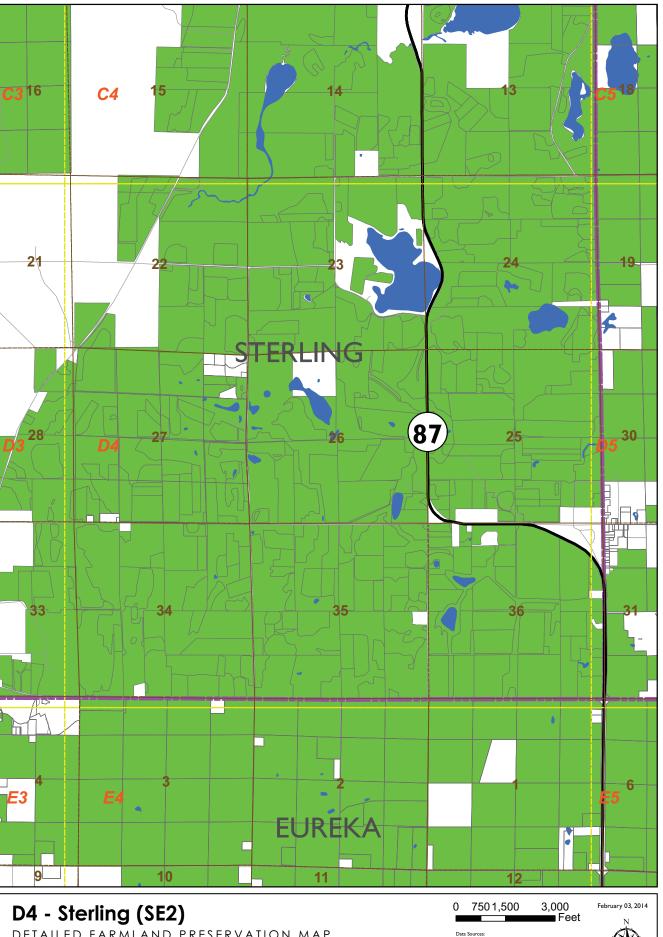


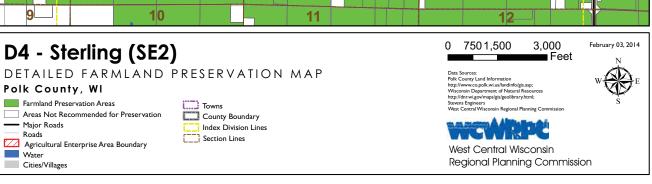


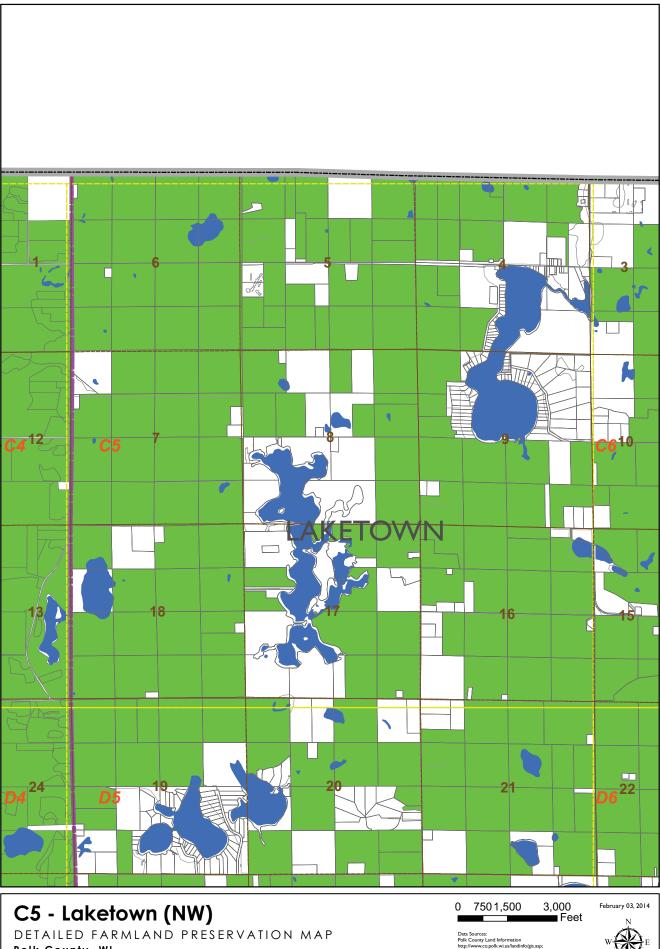


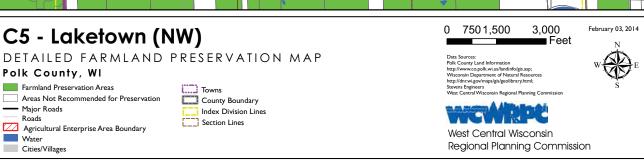


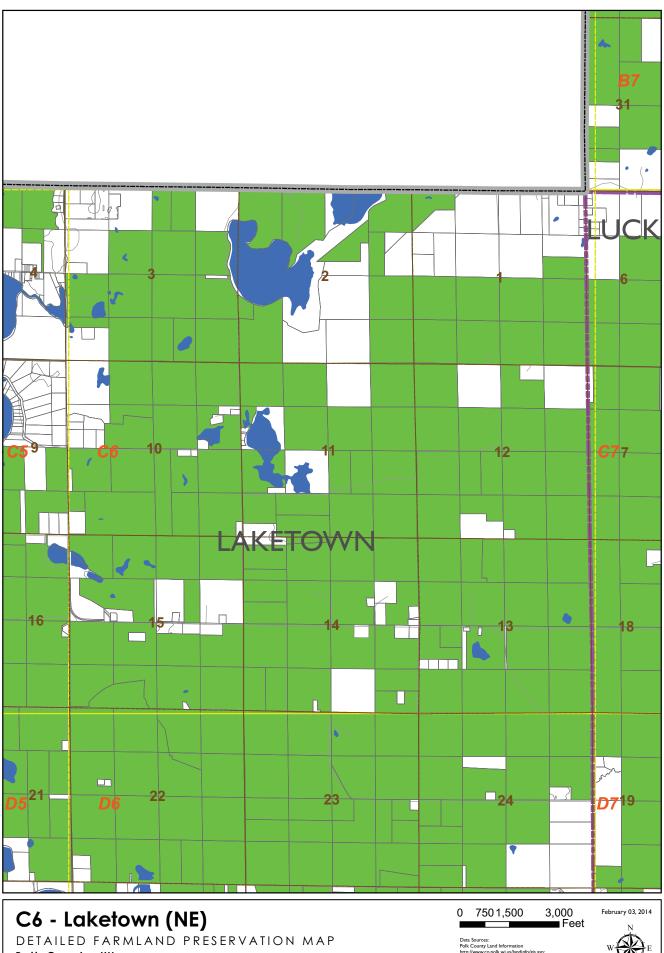


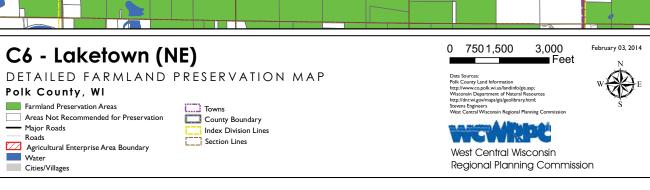


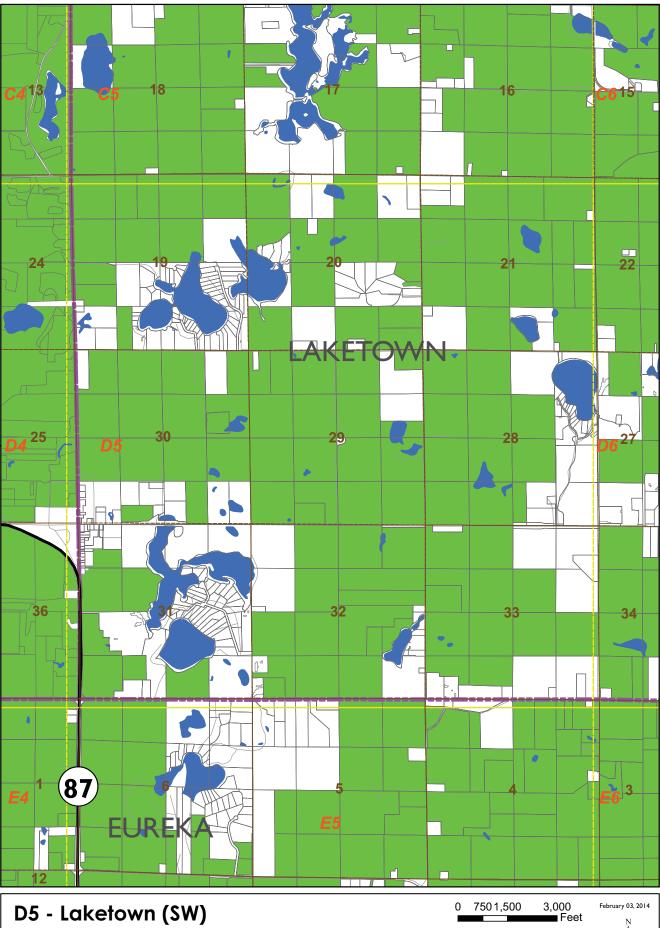




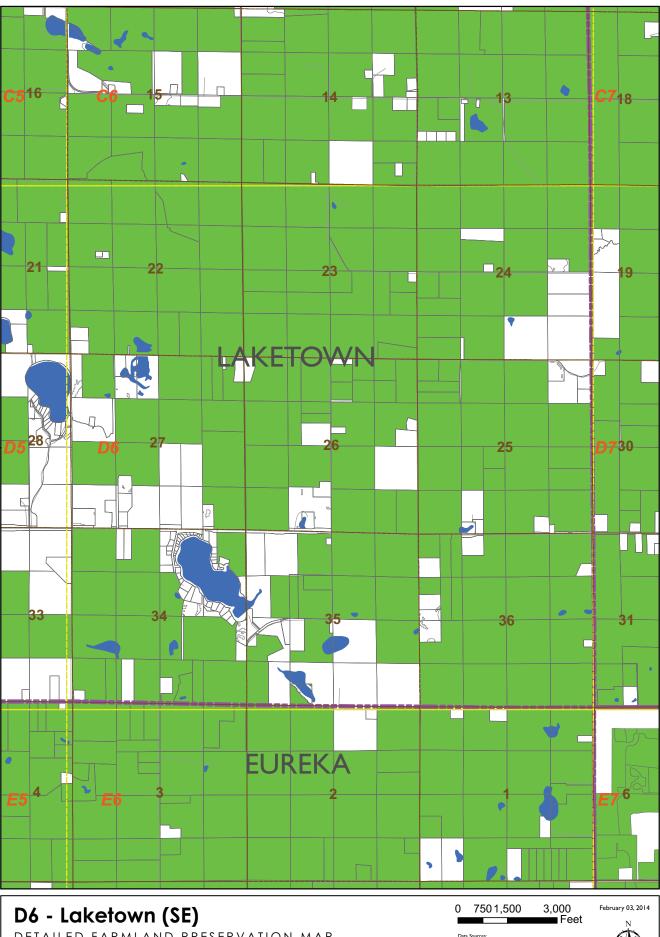








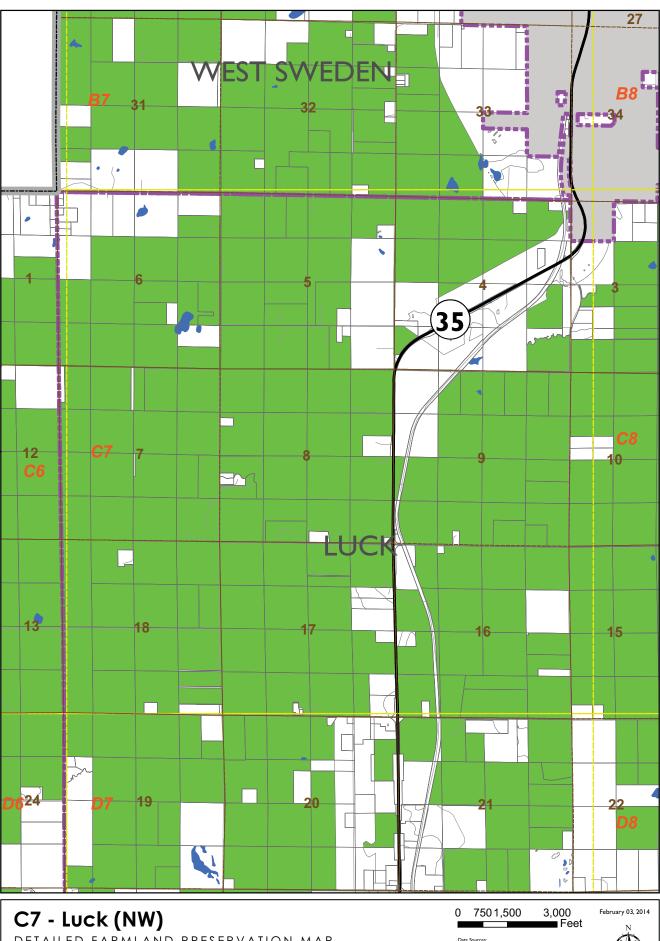
D5 - Laketown (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages Data Source: Polk County Jan disformation Index Division Lines Section Lines Data Source: Polk County Jan disformation Nuccepality Main disformation Nuccepality Main disformation Nuccepality Major Roads Nest Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

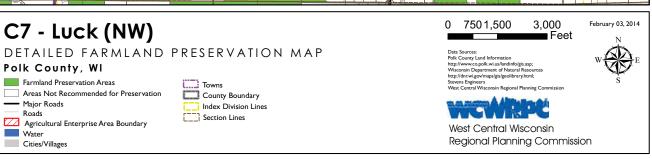


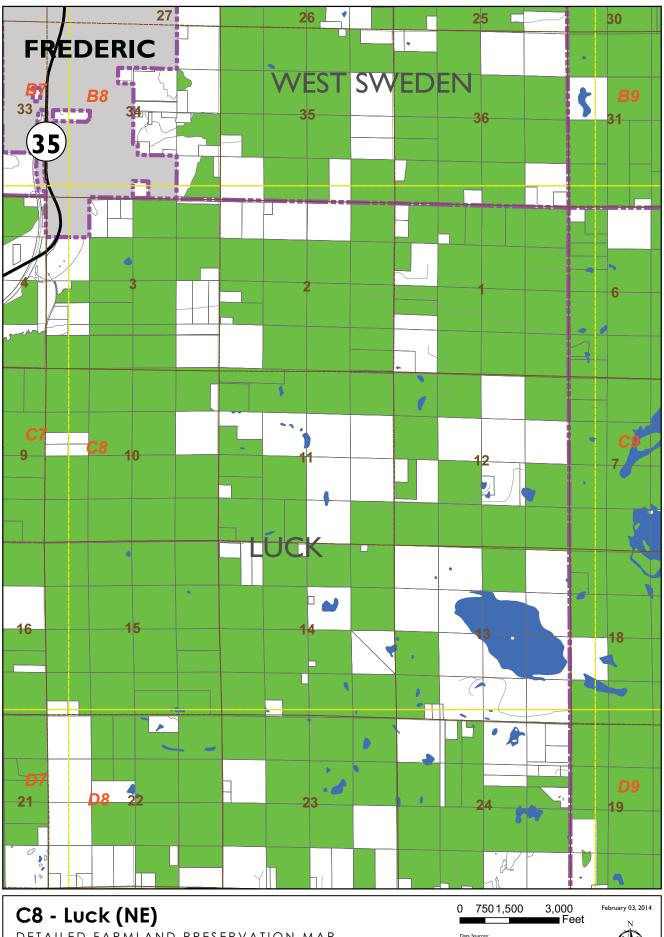
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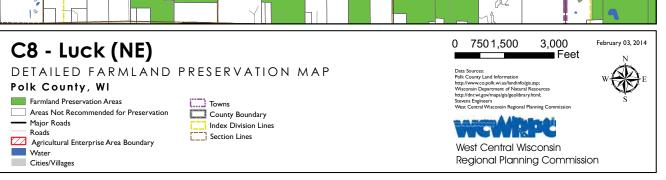
Das Sources
Polic County Land Information
http://www.co.polic.viu.uflandinfolgis.asp;
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
http://dn.vvi.gov/imays/sis/seolibrary.html;
Stevens Engineers
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

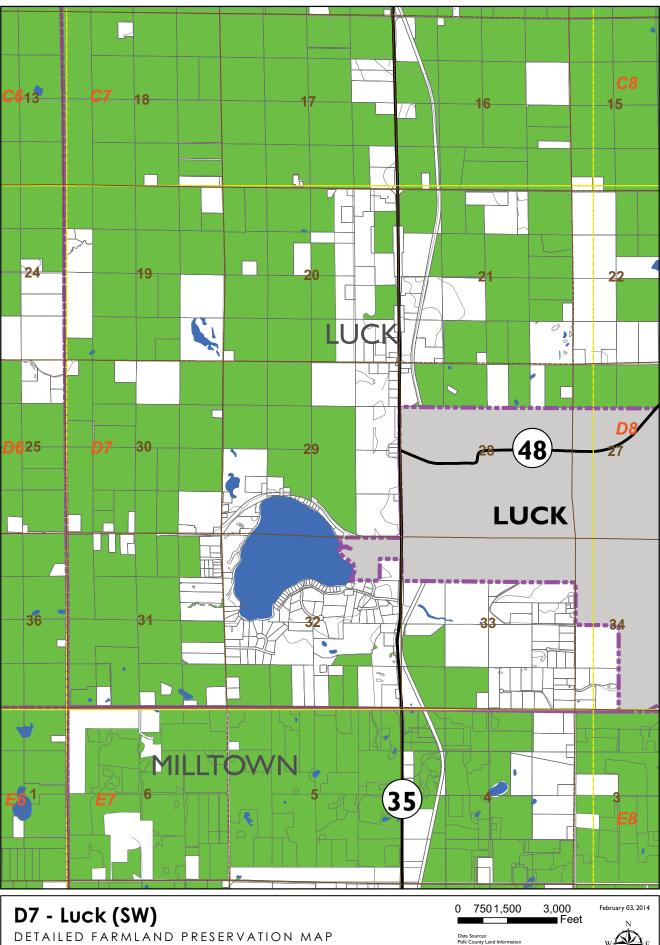
West Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission

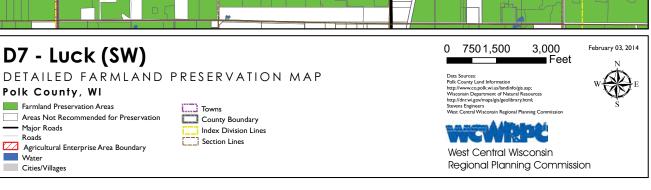


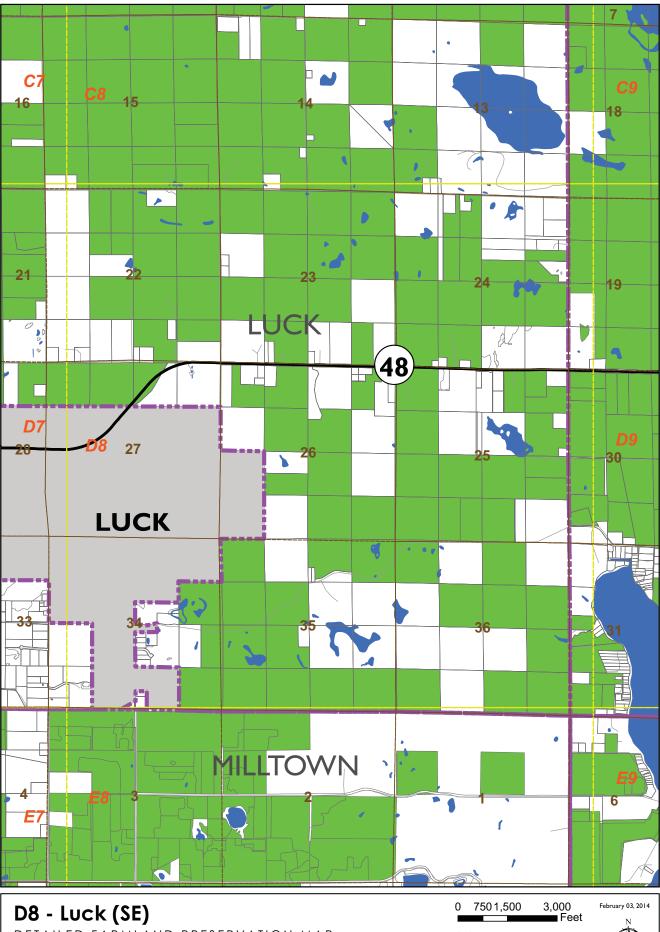


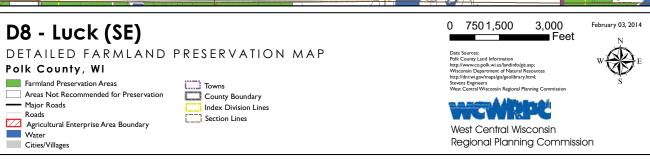


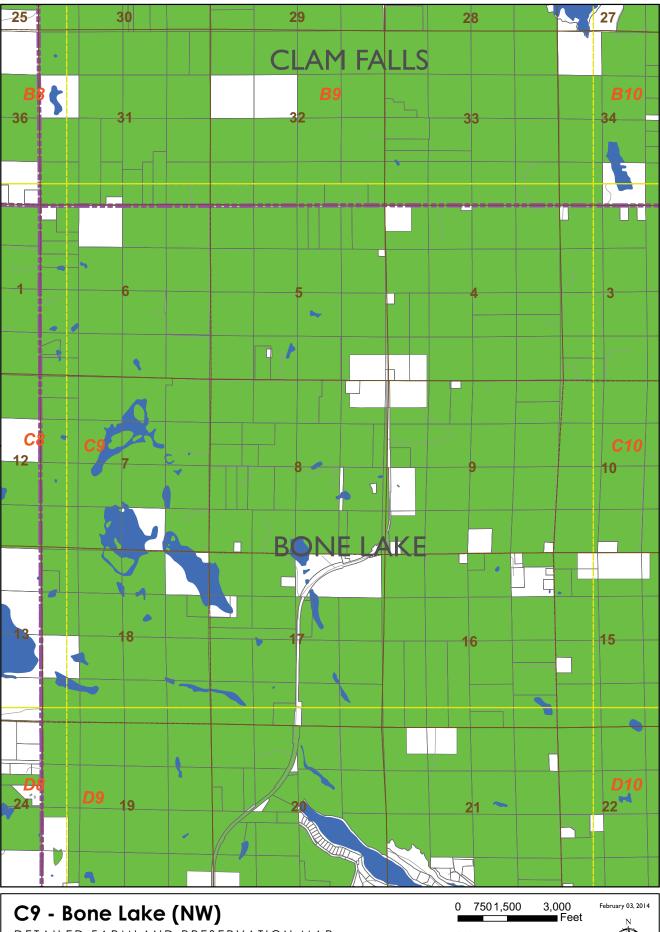




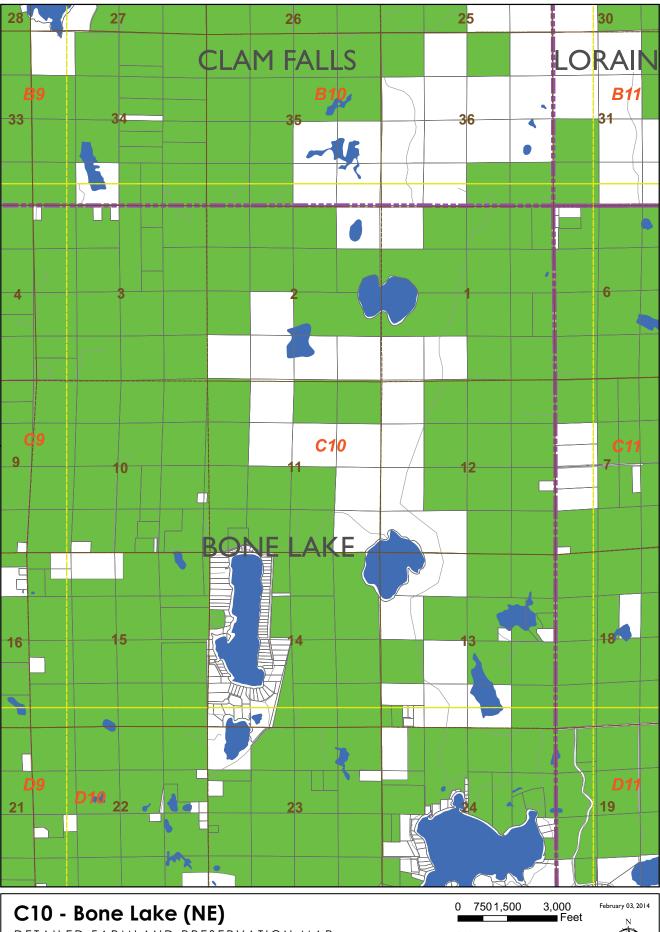


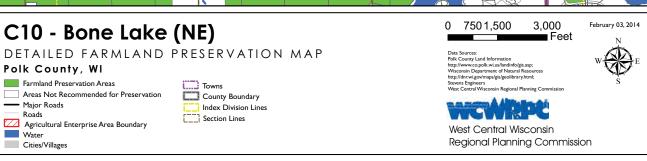


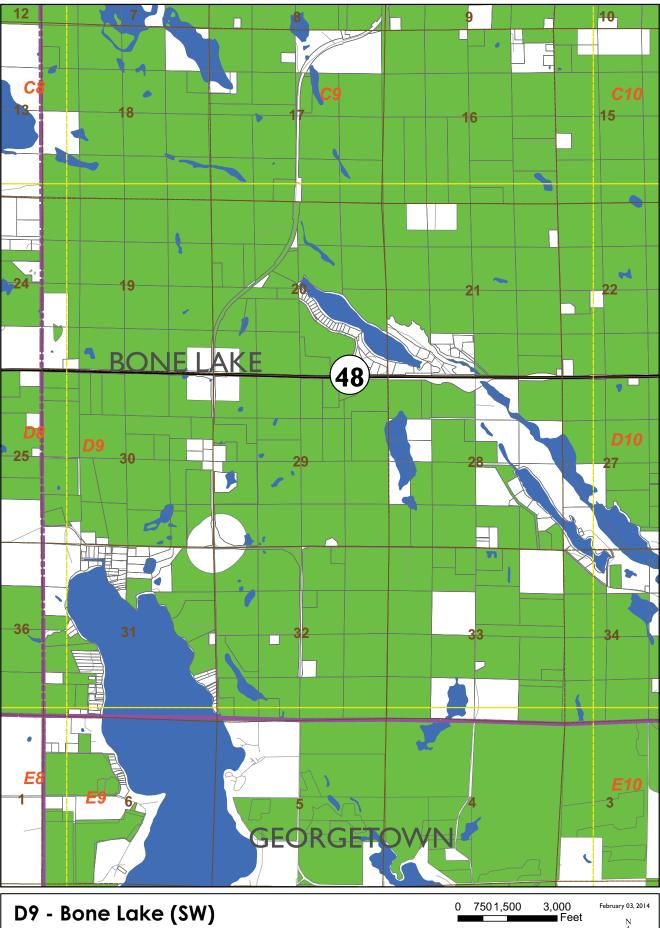




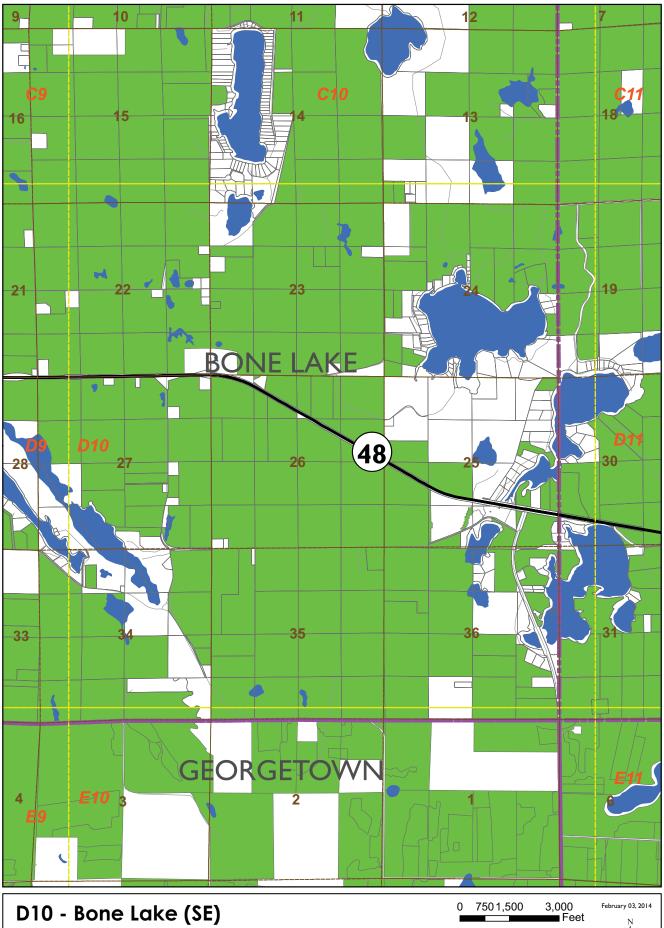




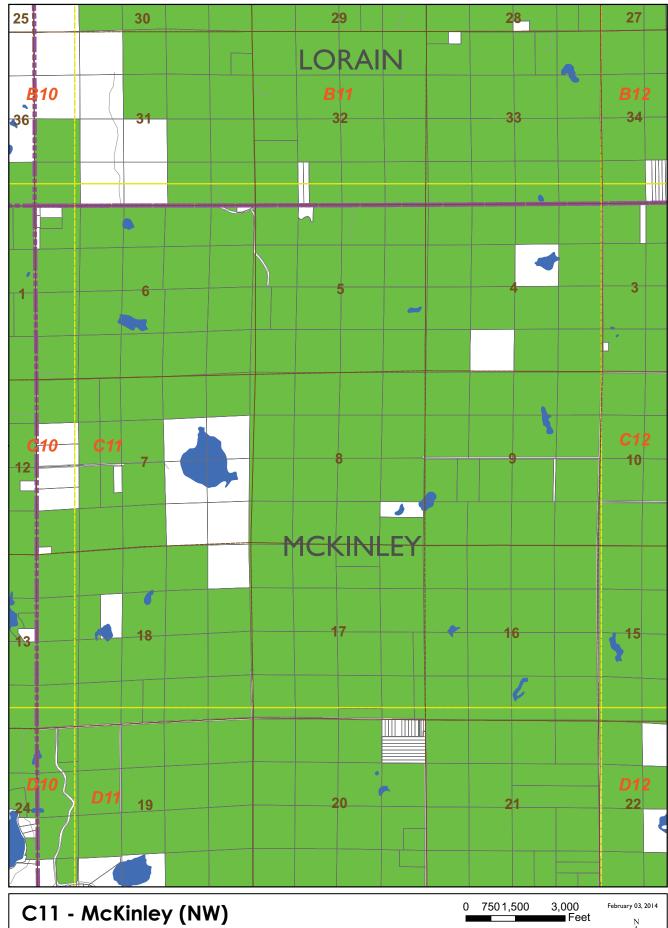




D9 - Bone Lake (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Polk County Individual Information Intust/Invac-polk Watural Recourses Intust/Invac-polk Watural Reformation Intust/Invac-polk Watural



D10 - Bone Lake (SE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Roads County Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 Felt County Jand Information Polk County Land Informatio



C11 - McKinley (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Section Lines Section Lines

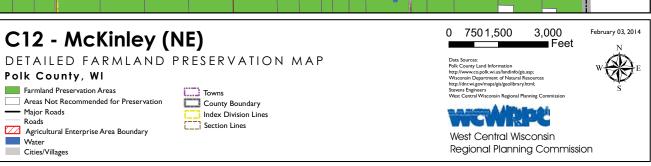
Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014

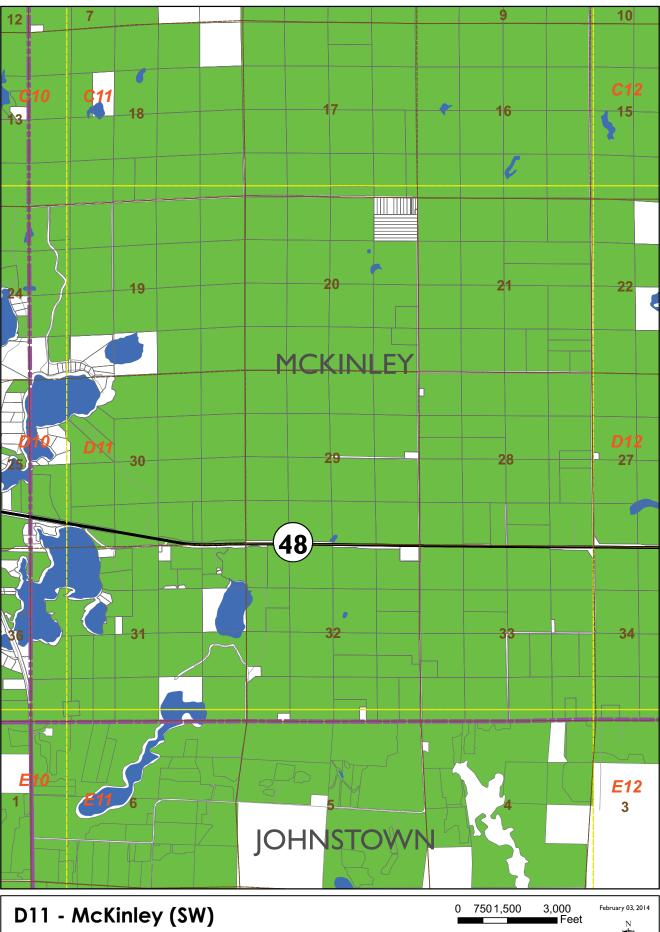
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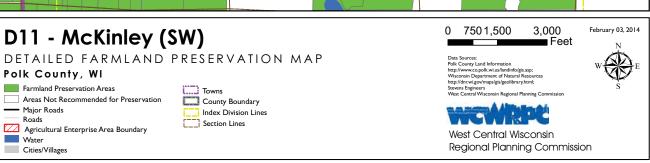
Data Sources.
Polik County Land Information
http://www.copolik.wiu.alhandinfolgs.asp;
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
http://dnr.wi.gov/mays/su/geolibrary.html;
Stewes Engineers
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

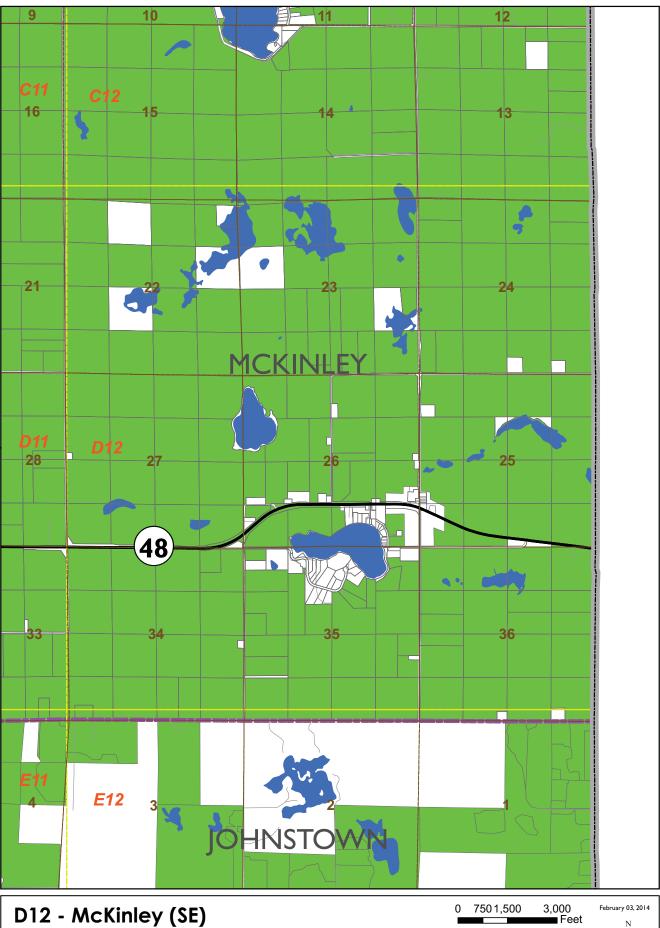
West Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission



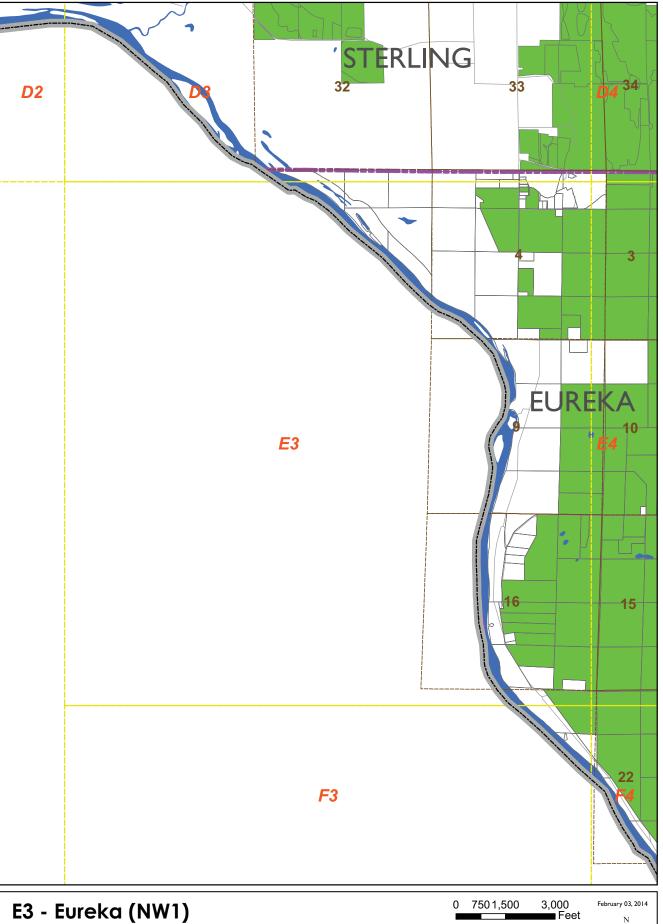




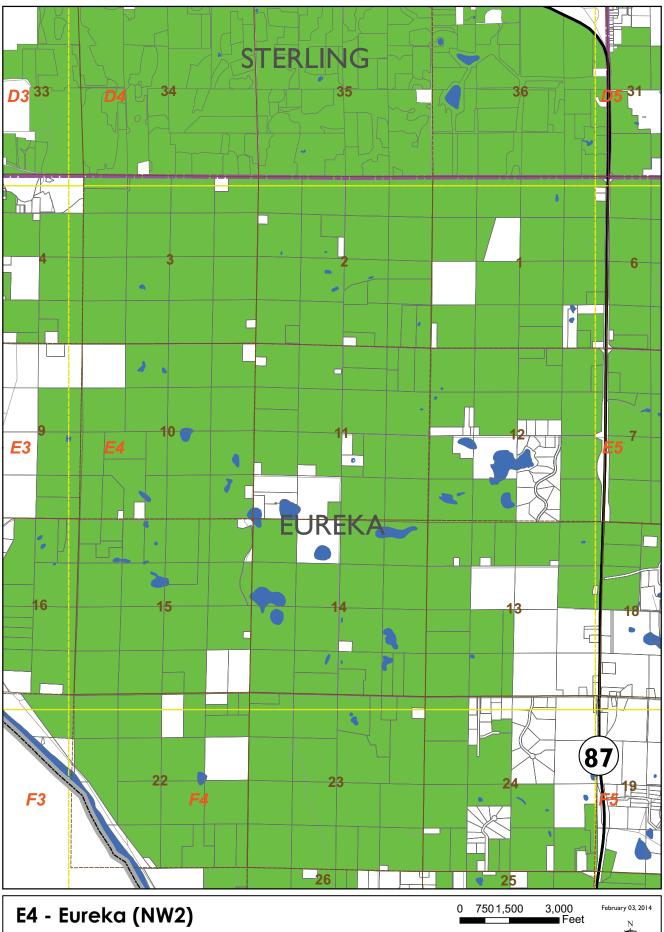




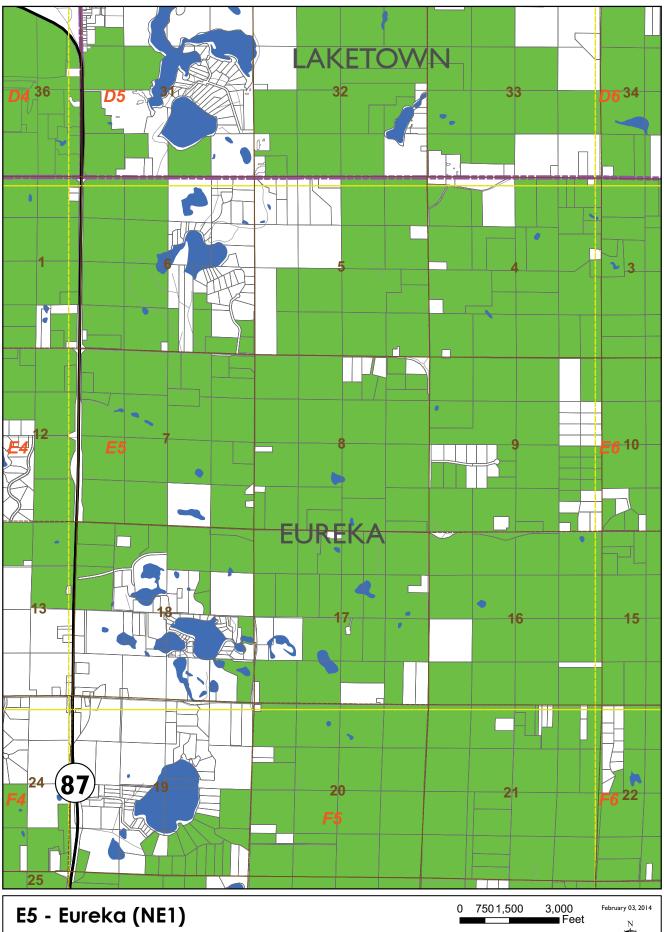
D12 - McKinley (SE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages Data Source: Polk County Land Information Information Index Division Lines Section Lines Data Source: Polk County Land Information Information Information Information Information Index Division Lines Section Lines West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



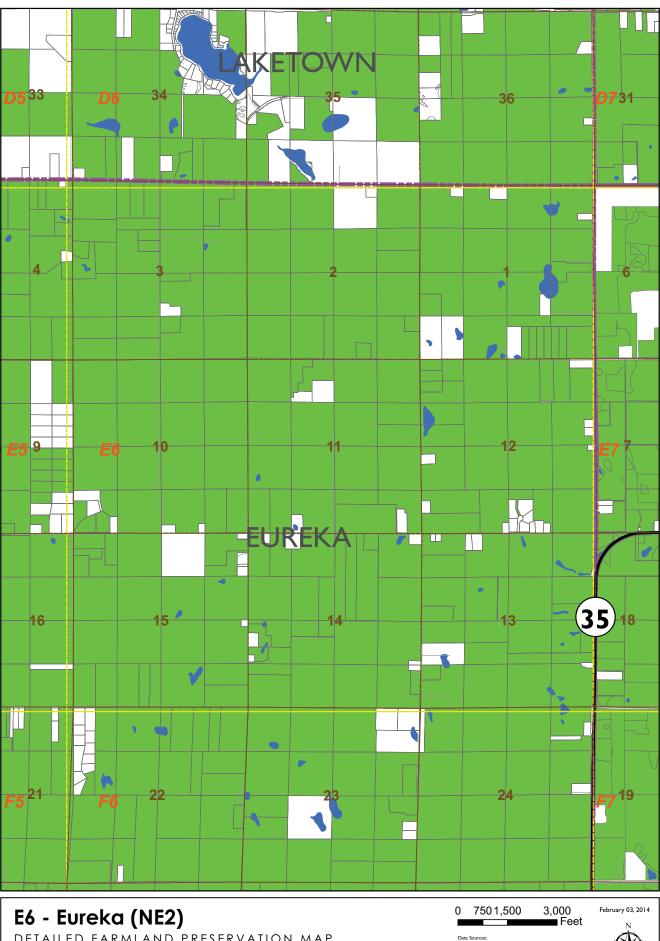
E3 - Eureka (NW1) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Das Surce: Nicosania Regional Information Interplivow.copoliv vulnibudinfolgia spe; Nicosania Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission











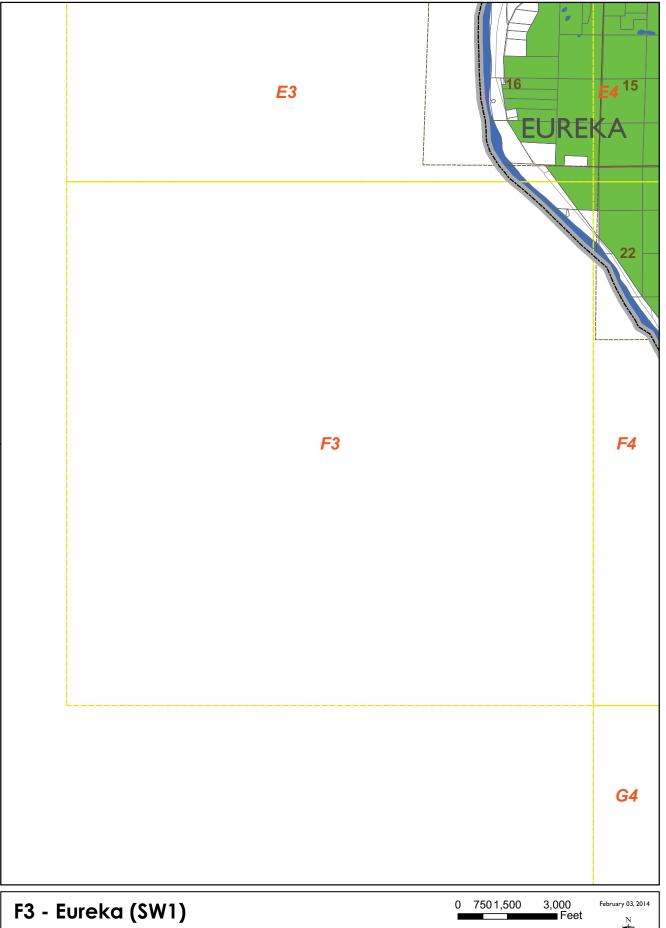
E6 - Eureka (NE2) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages

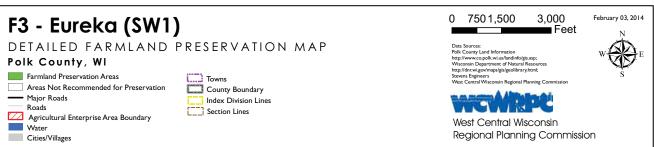
0 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014

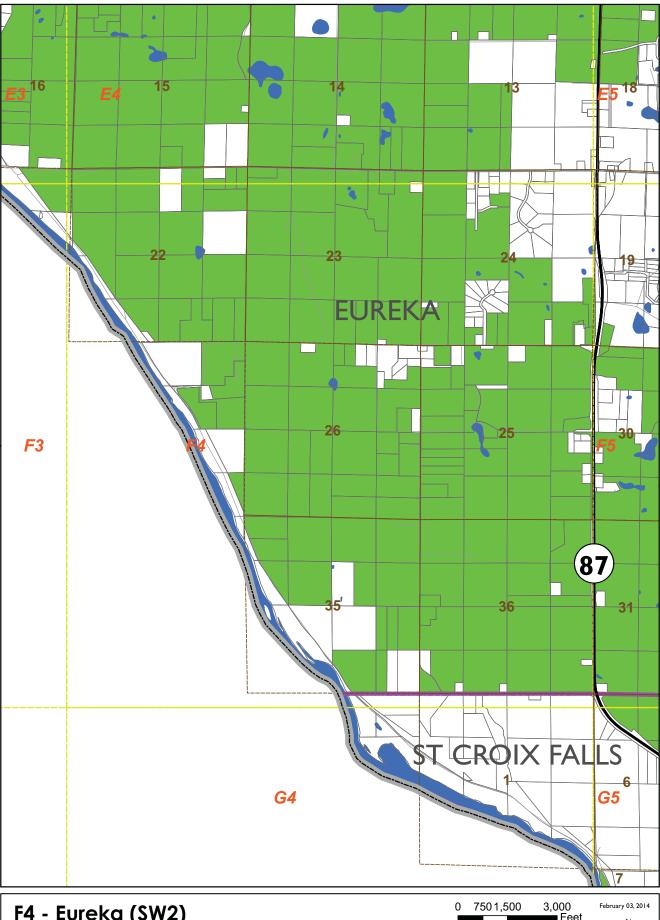
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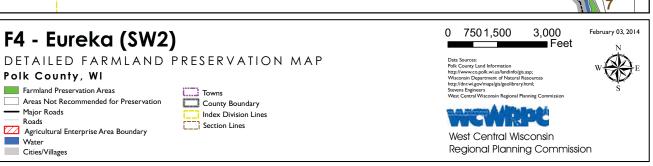
Data Sources:
Pelk County Land Information
Interal/News.ca.polk.wi.uslandinfolight asp:
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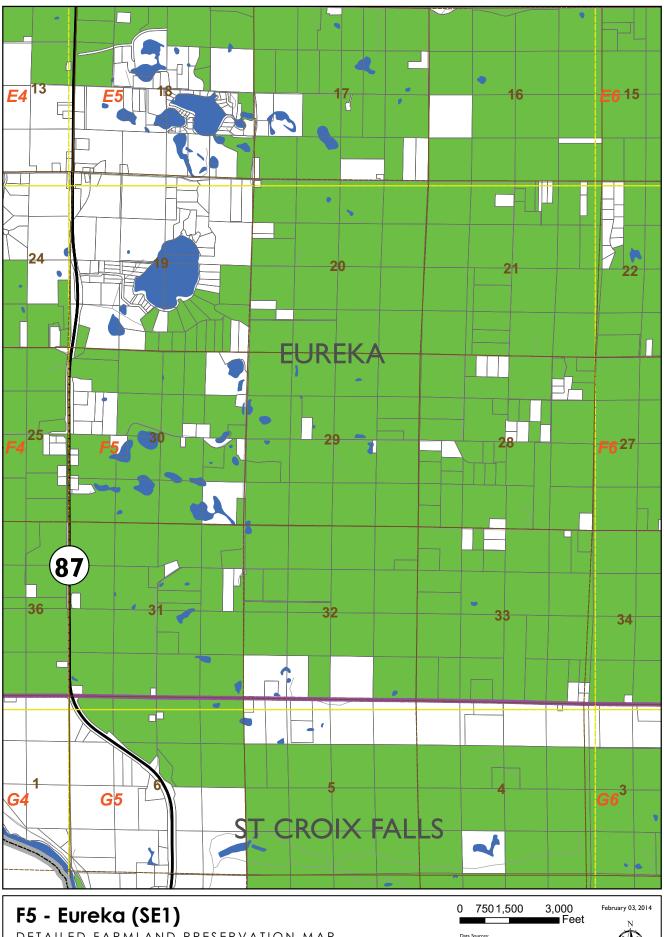
West Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission

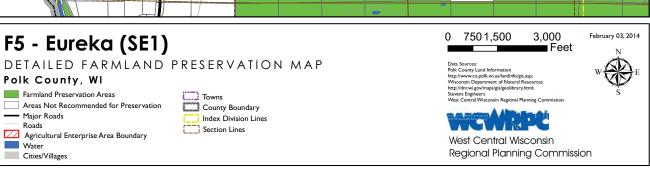


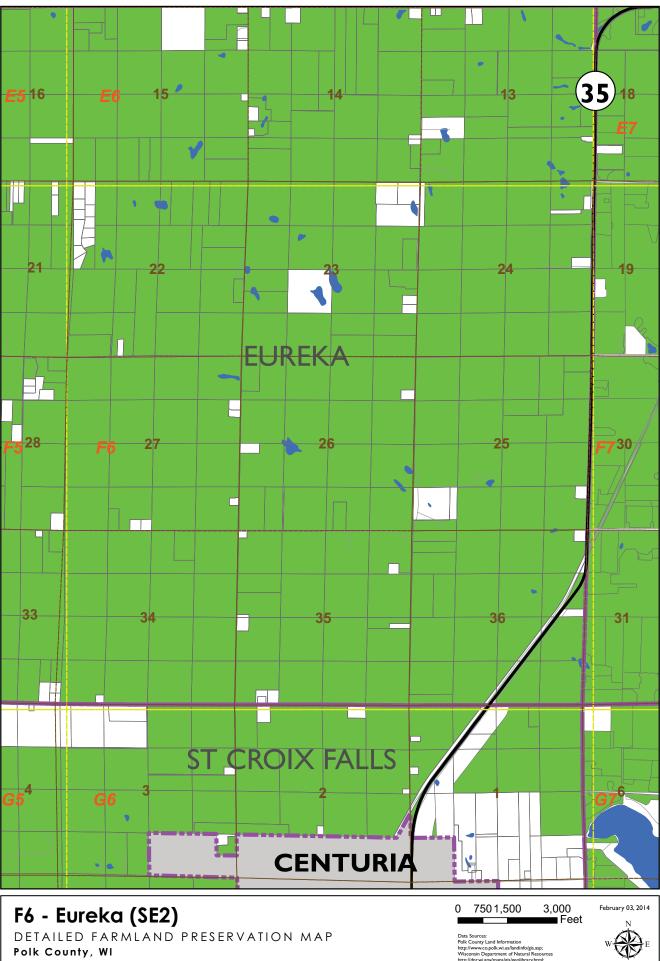












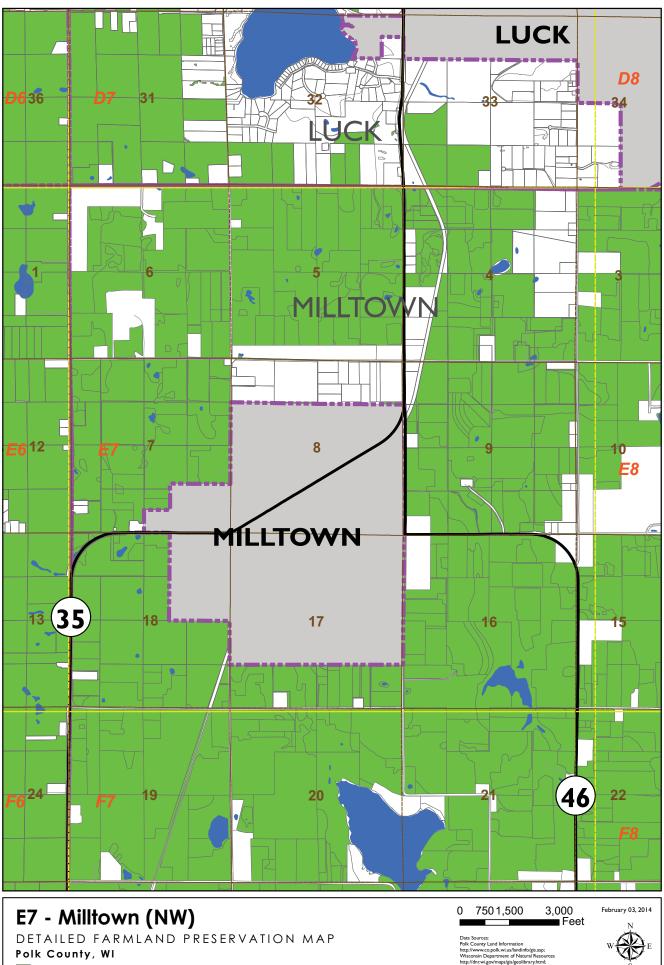
F6 - EUREKO (SE2) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary

Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014

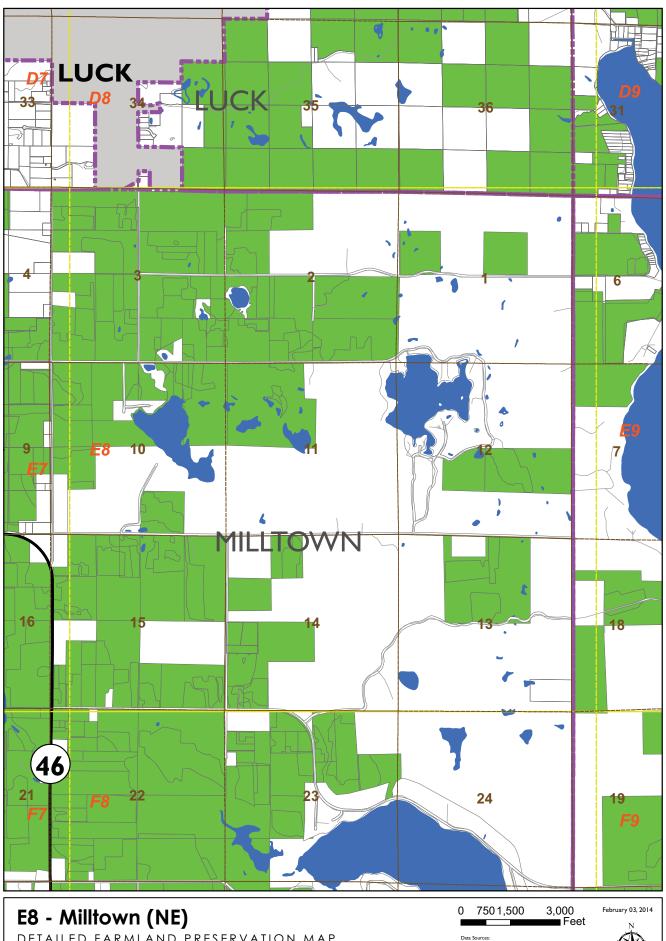
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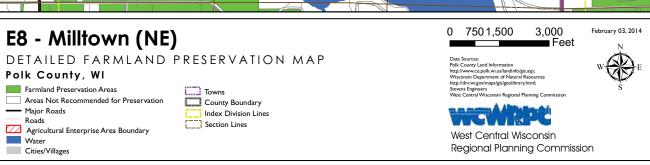
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http://www.co.polk.wius/landinfolgs.asp;
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
http://dnr.wi.gov/mapis/pis/gollprary.html;
Stewes Engineers
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

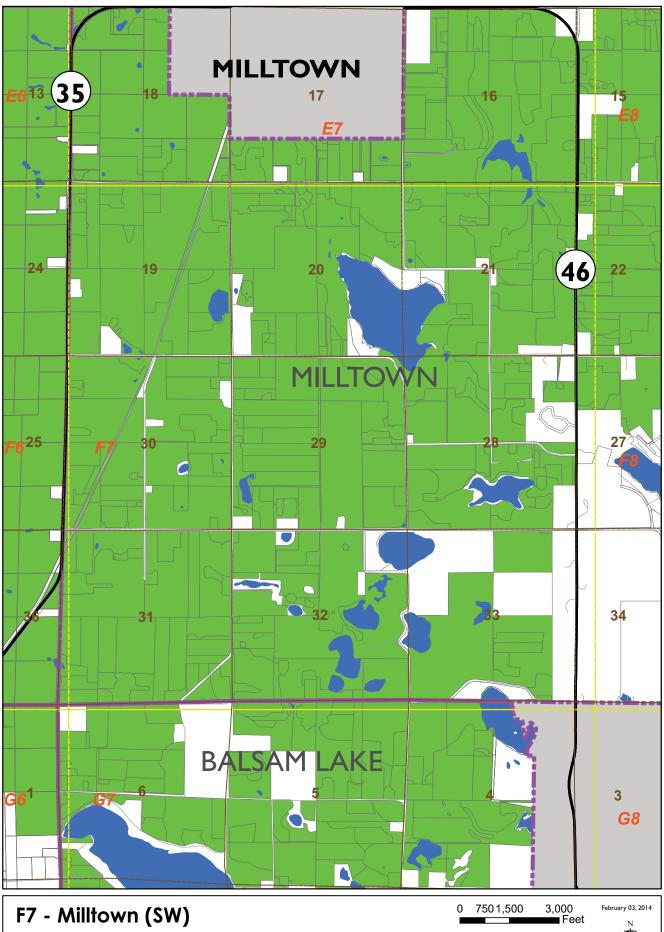
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Regional Planning Commission



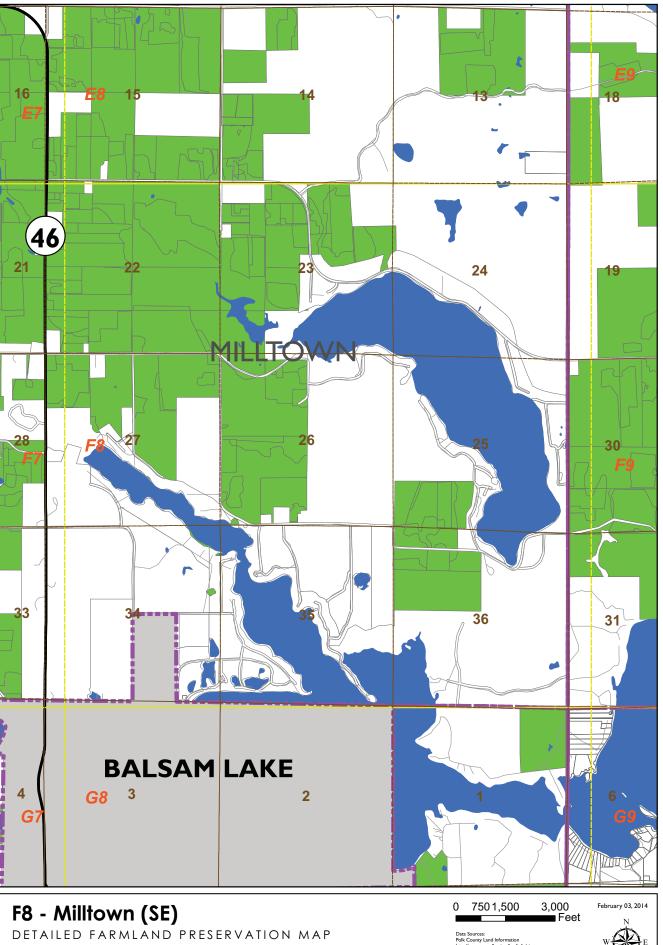
E7 - Milltown (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 February 04, 2014 February 04, 2014 February 05, 2014 February 05, 2014

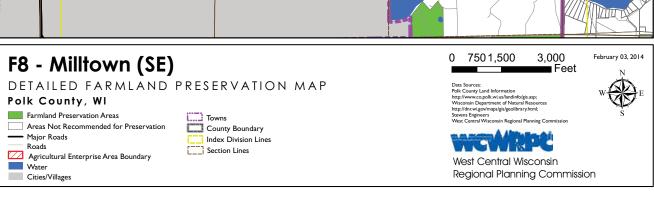


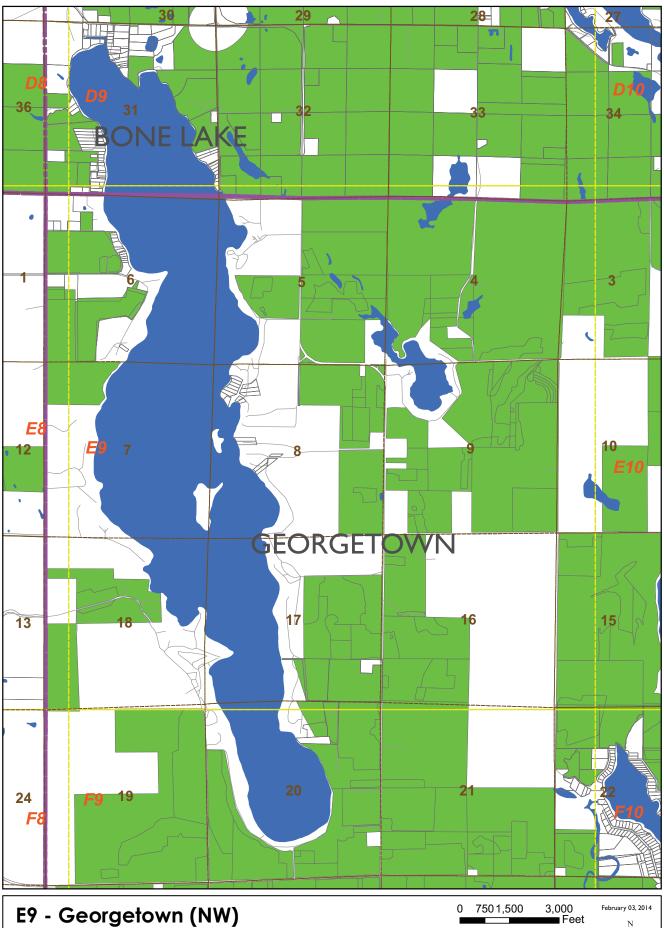




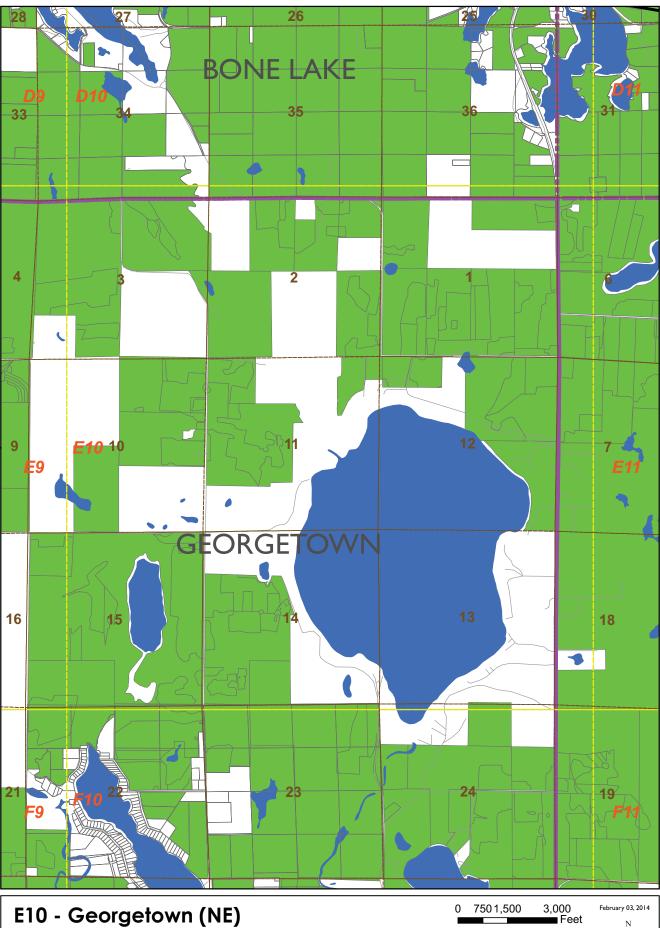
F7 - Milltown (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 750 1,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Wiccoin Degratment of Natural Resources Interpliant on government for preservation Interpliant on government for preservation Index Division Lines Section Lines West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



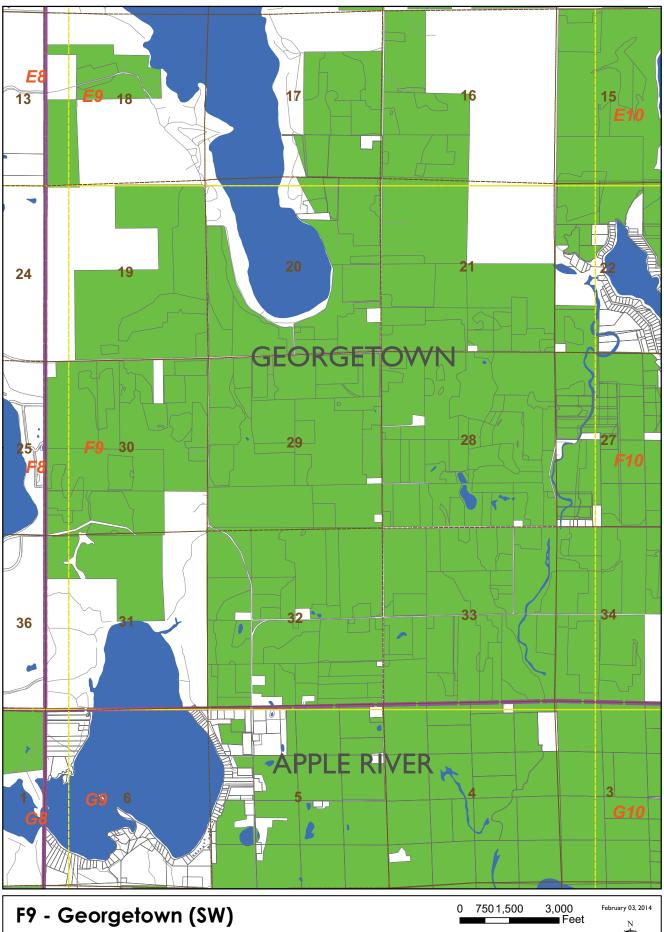




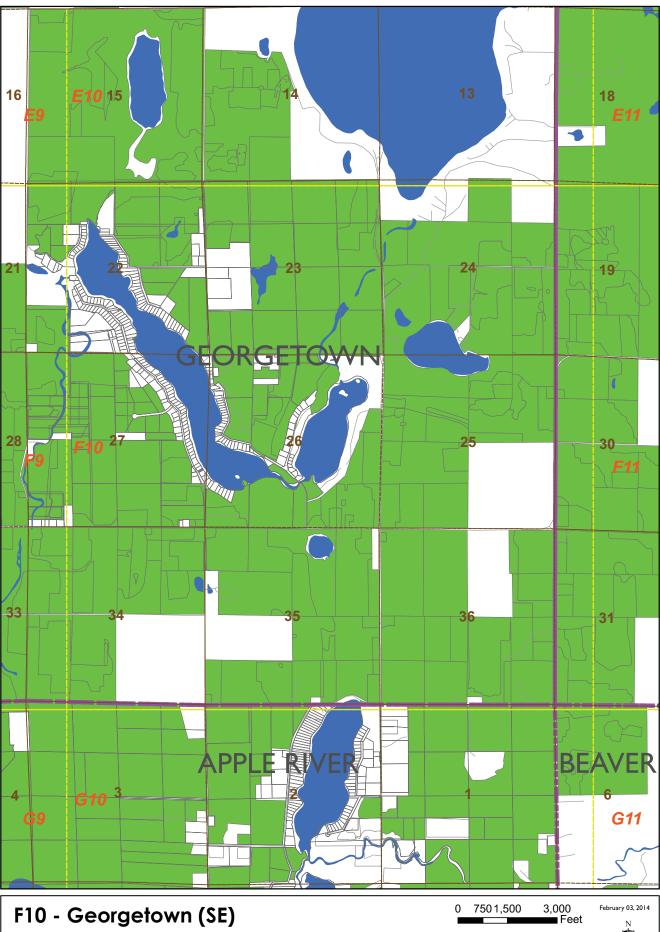
E9 - Georgetown (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Polk County, MAP Data Source: Polk County Land Information Information House planting Commission February 03, 2014 VW Water Data Source: Polk County Land Information Nucconsin Department of Natural Resources http://div.org.om/spublicy/bellary.html; Stevens Engineers West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

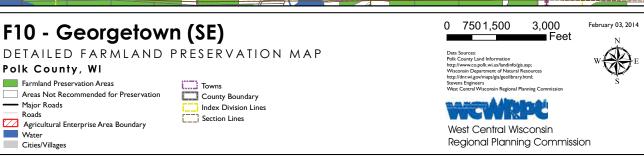


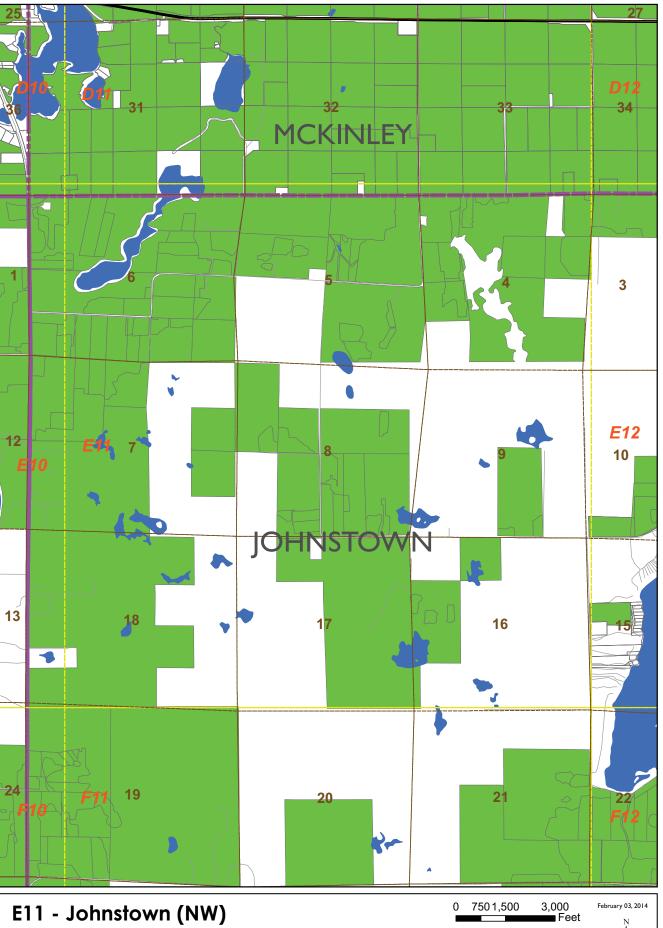
E10 - Georgetown (NE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Data Source: Polk County Land Information Interplivance copie, witufundinfolight asp: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources http://draw.polk.witufundinfolight asp: Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission West Central/Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



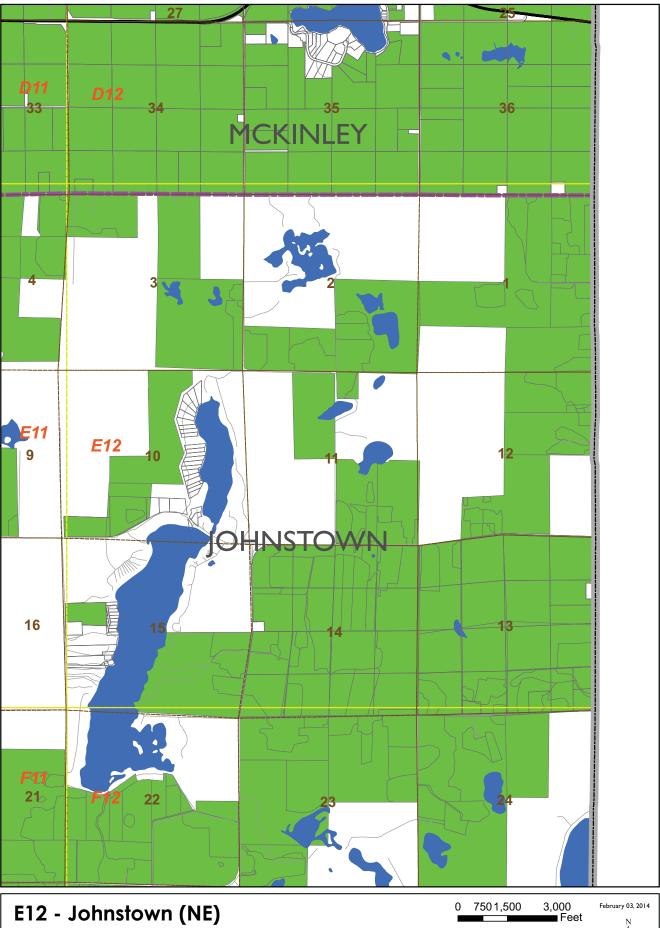
F9 - Georgetown (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 February 03, 20



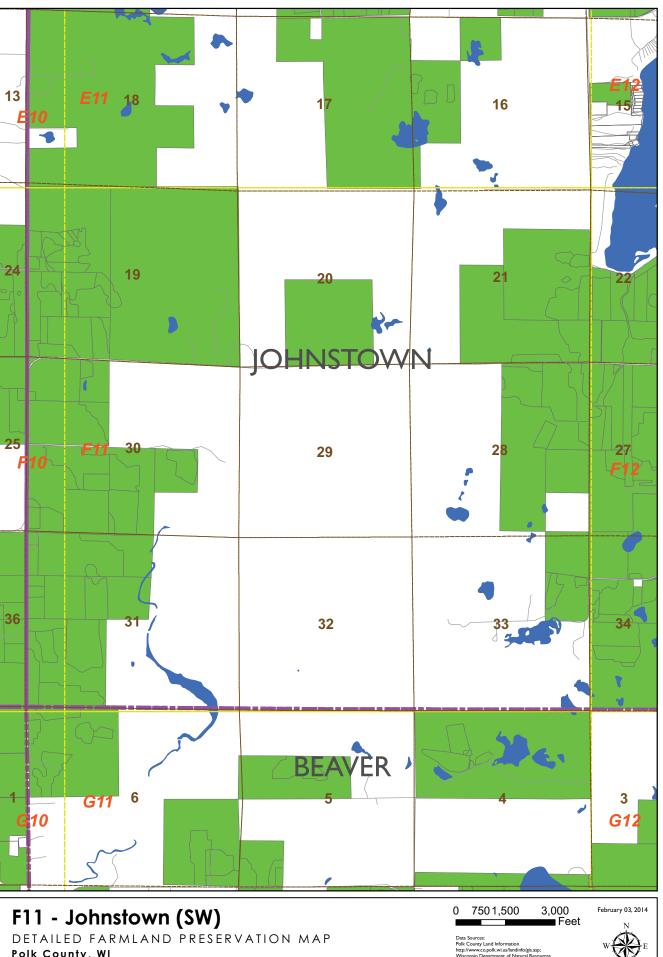


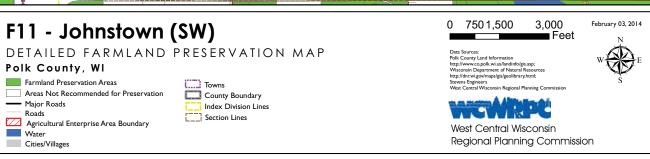


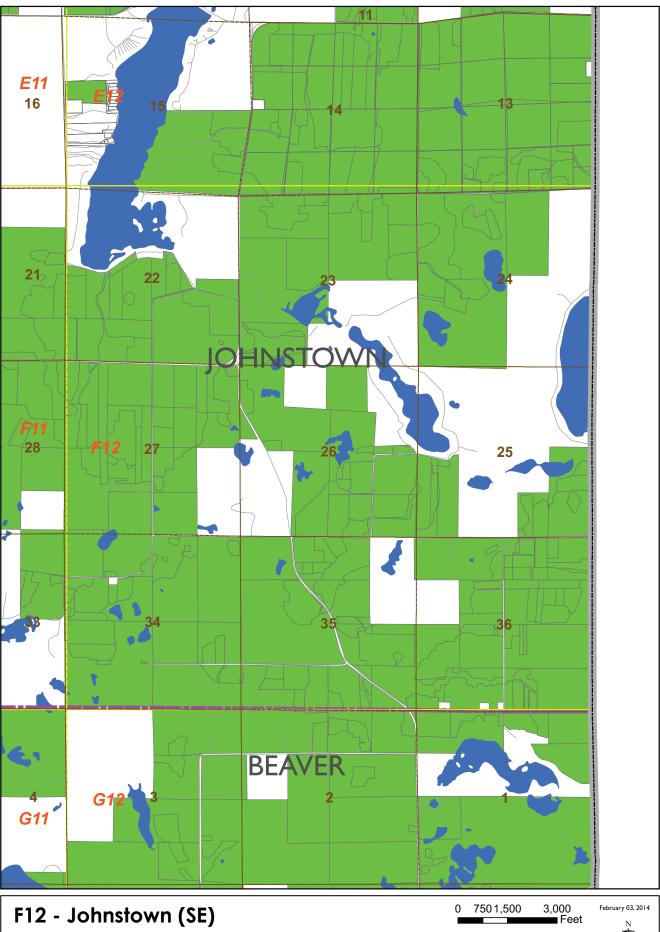
E11 - Johnstown (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 February 03, 2014 February 03, 2014 February 03, 2014 Water Data Source: Polk County Land Information Integritwe Capital wind Information Integritwe County Land Information Integritwe Capital Windermal Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

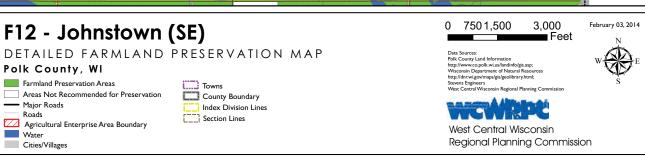


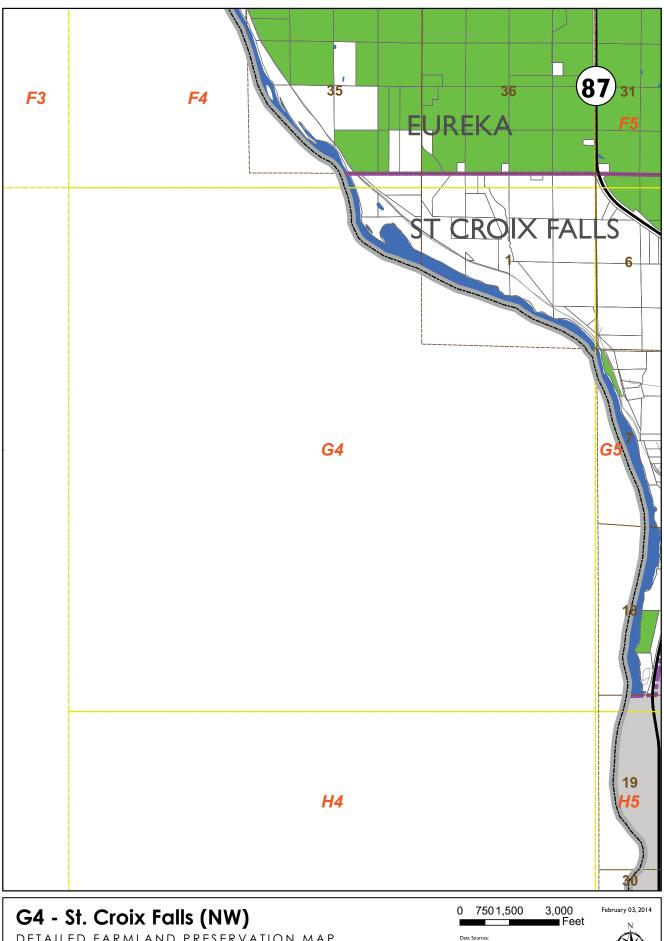
E12 - Johnstown (NE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 February 04, 20



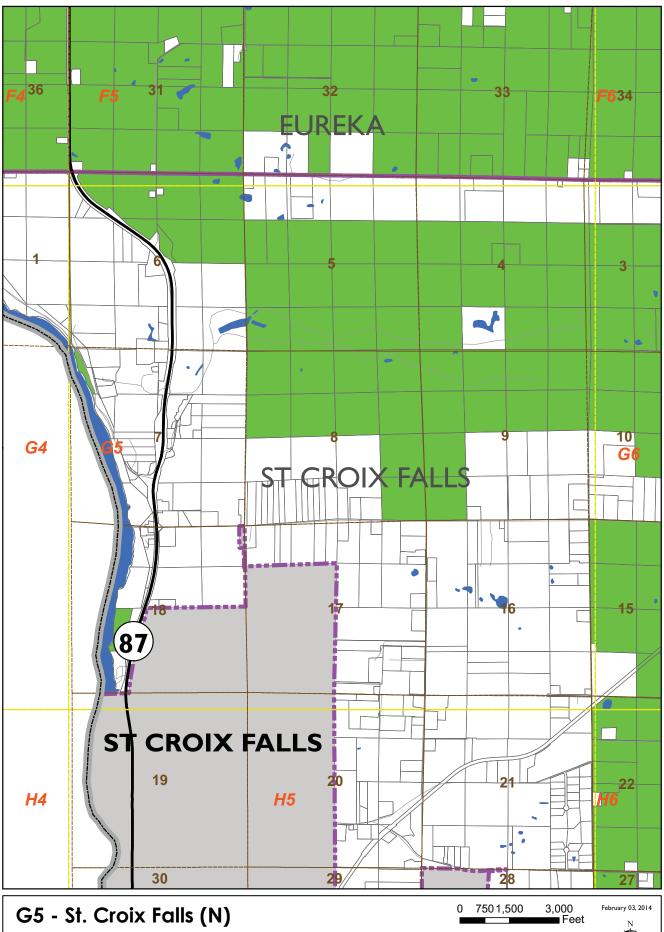


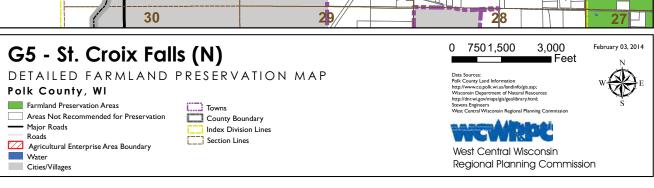


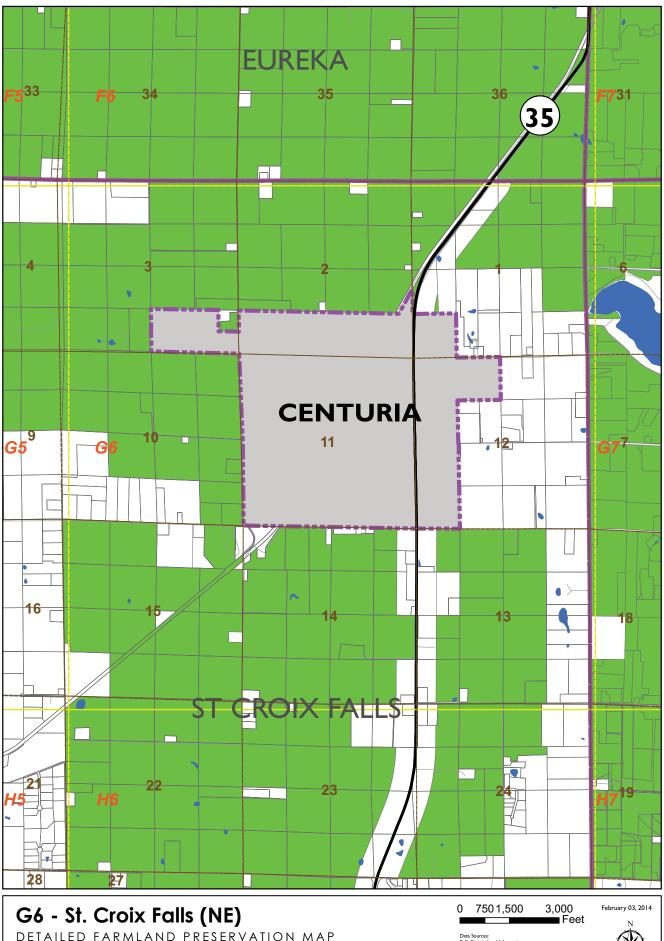


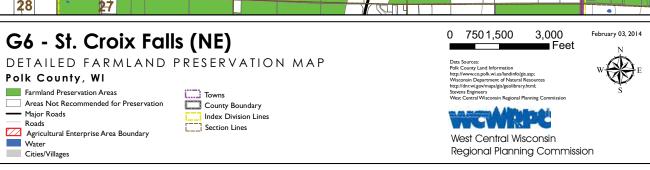


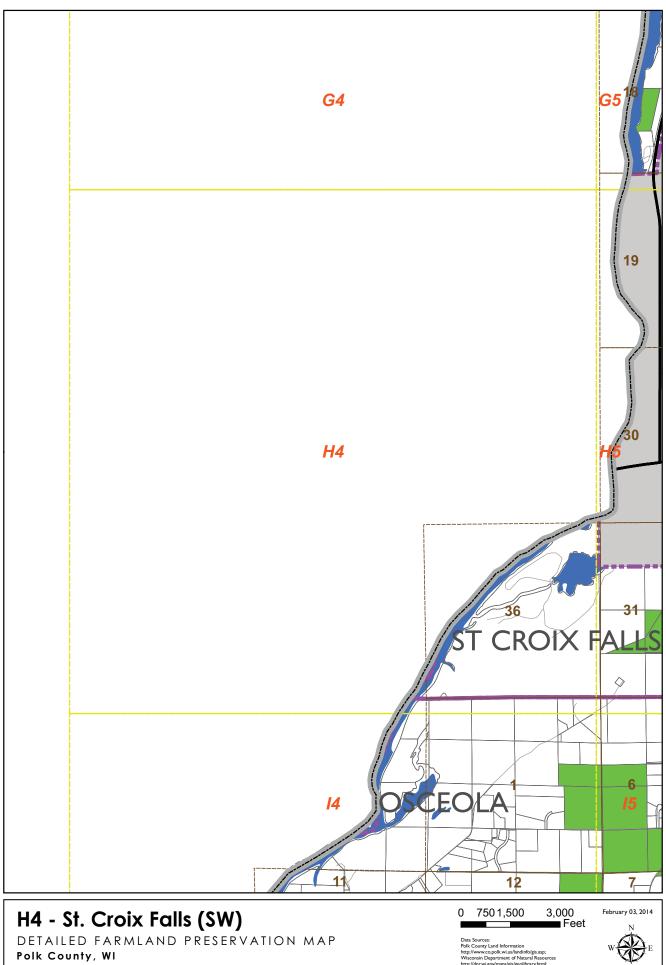


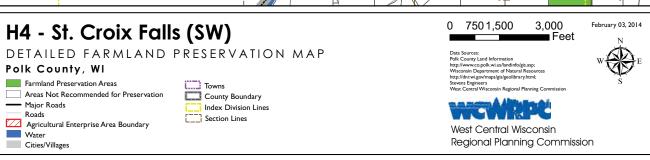


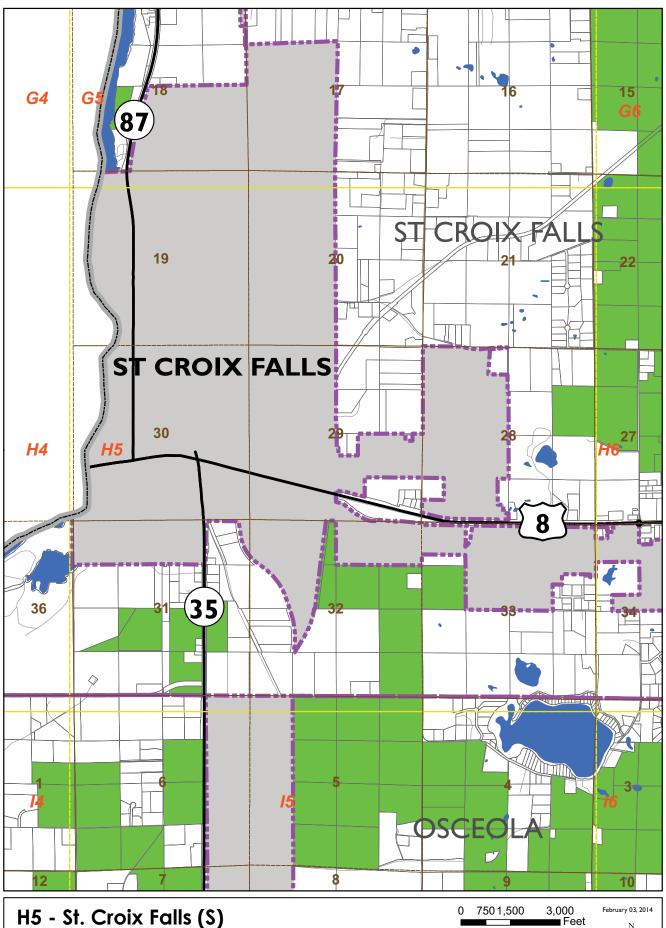


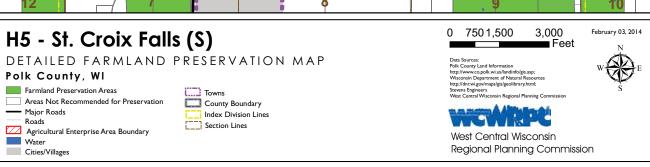


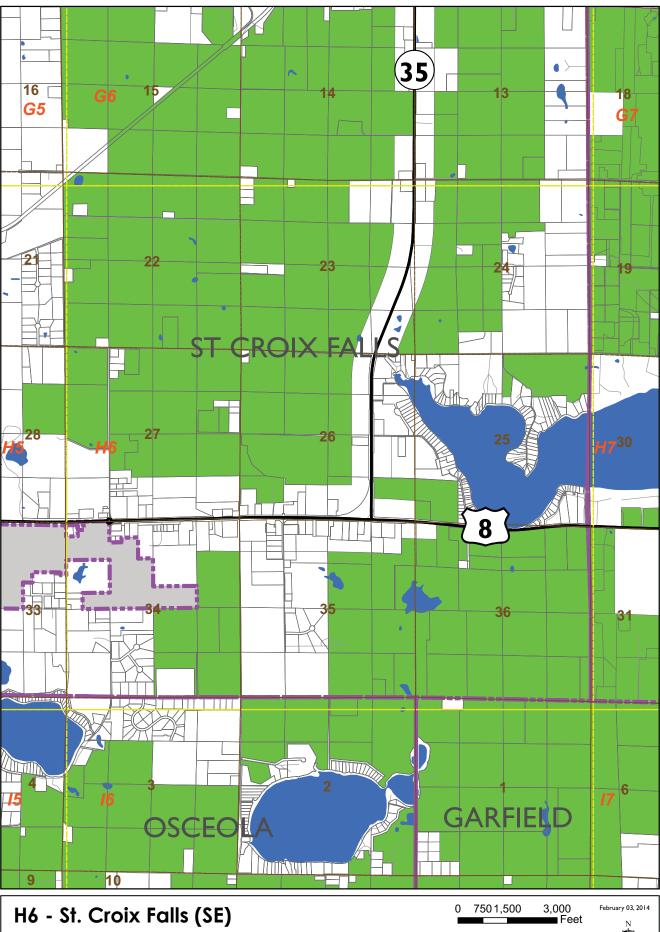


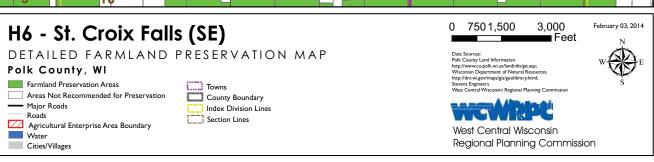


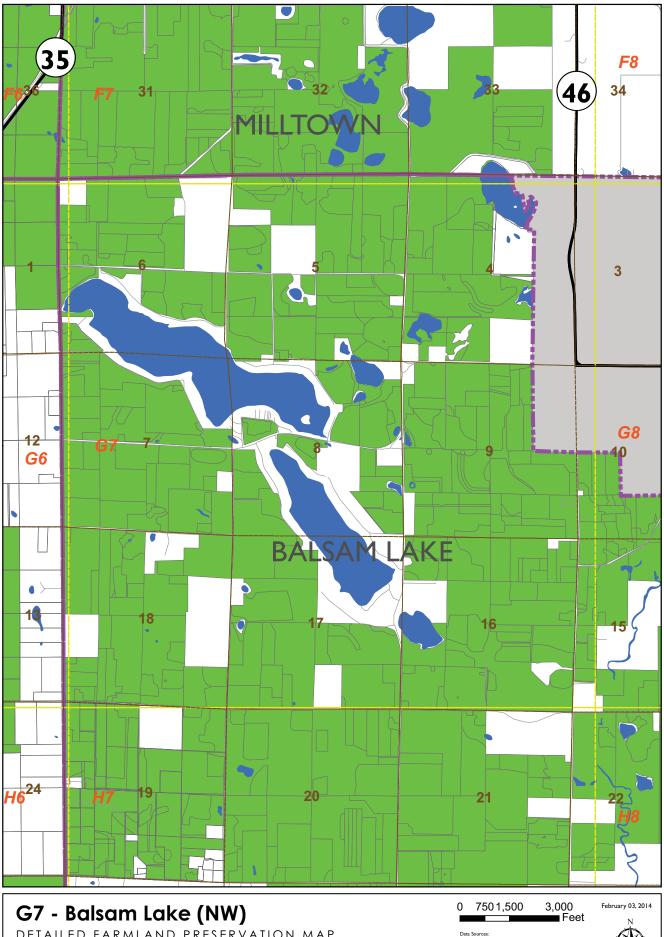




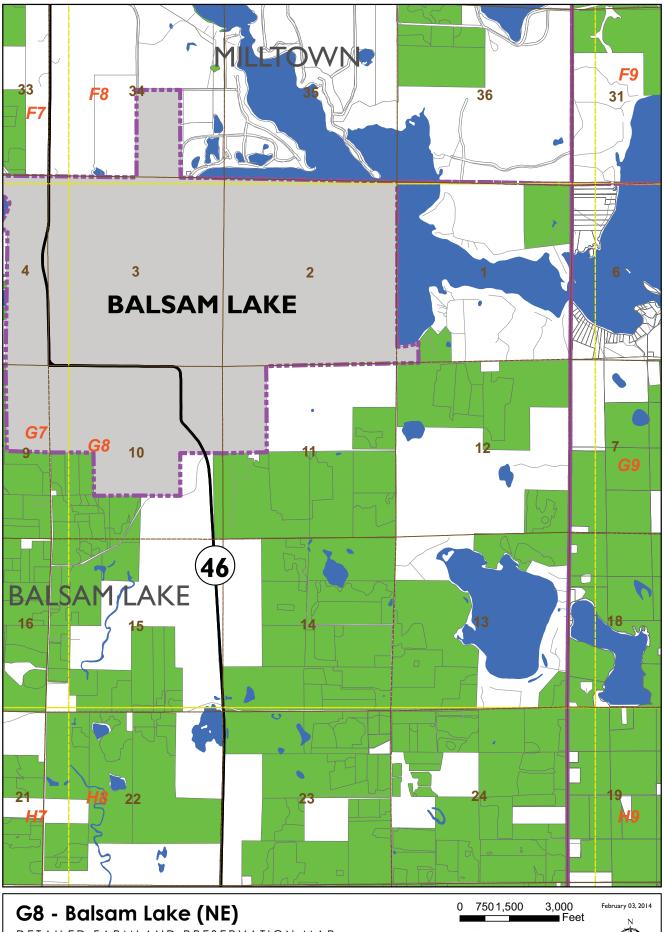




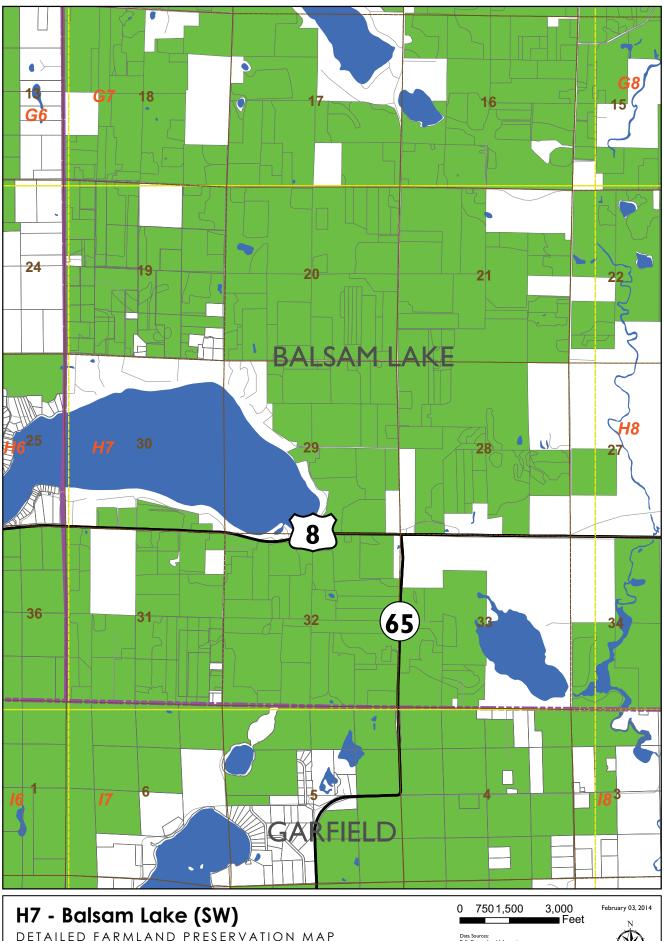




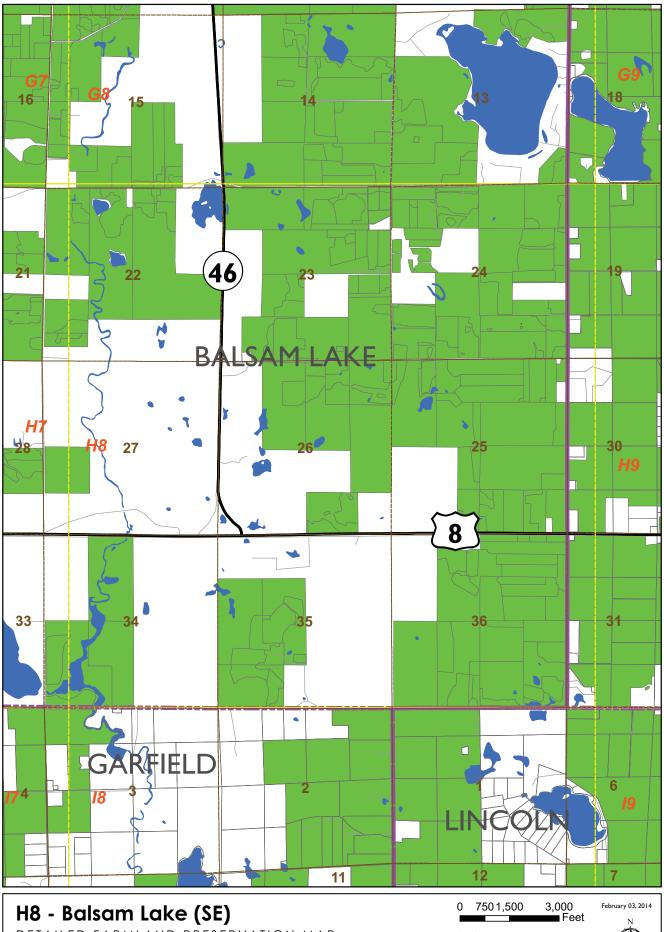
G7 - Balsam Lake (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Polk County, MAP Data Source: Polk County Land information Introfflower-cpolk wallandinfolight asp: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Introfflower-cpolk wallandinfolight asp: Wisconsin Department

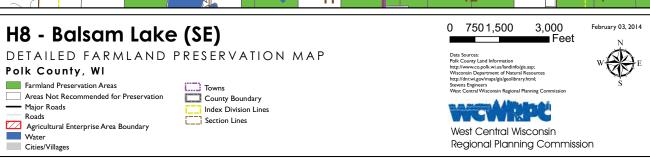


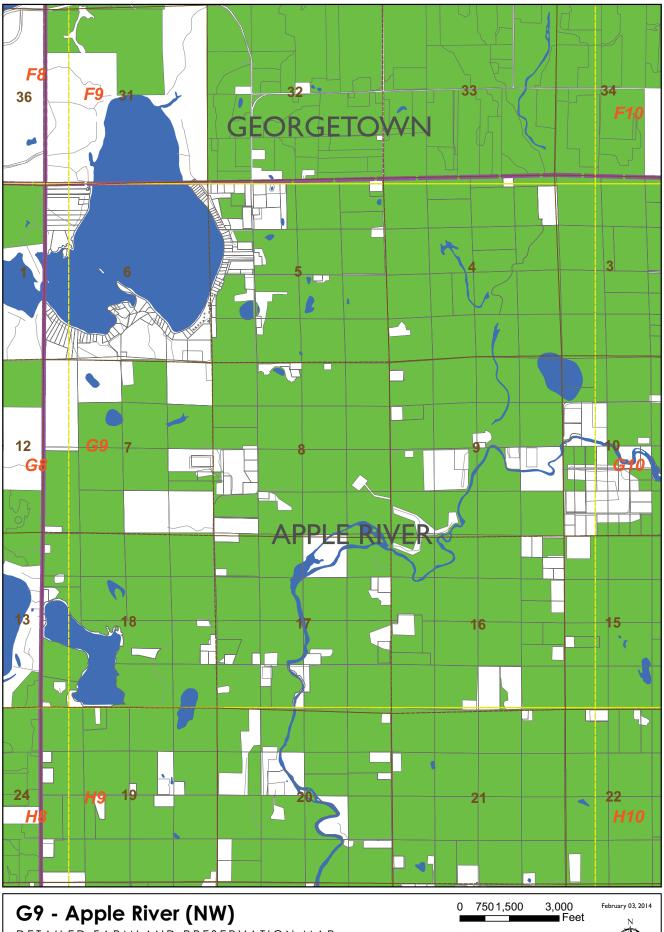
G8 - Balsam Lake (NE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 750 1,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Washing the County Land Information Index Division MAP Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Index Division Lines Section Lines West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



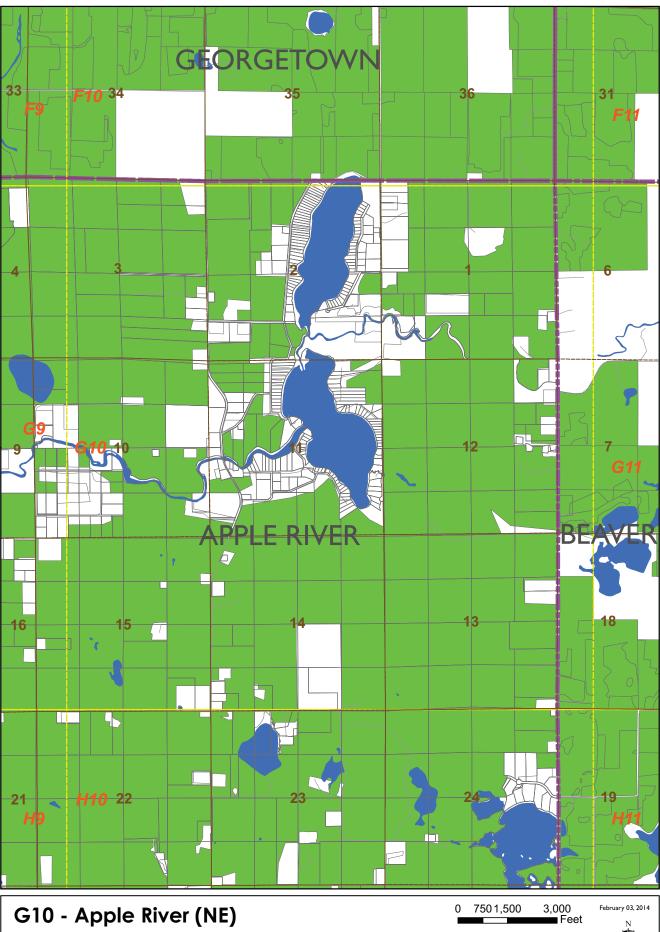
H7 - Balsam Lake (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Data Surect Polk County Land Information Inter/Jivovxcopolik vulainfluifolgis asp; Visiconin Department of Natural Resources Inter/Jivovxcopolik vulainfluifolgis asp; Visiconin Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



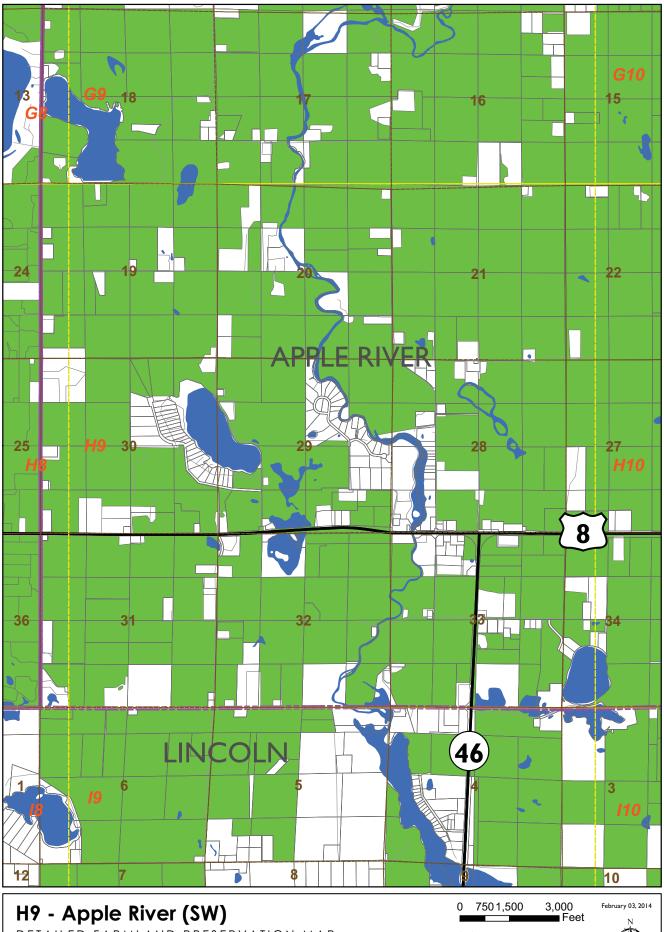




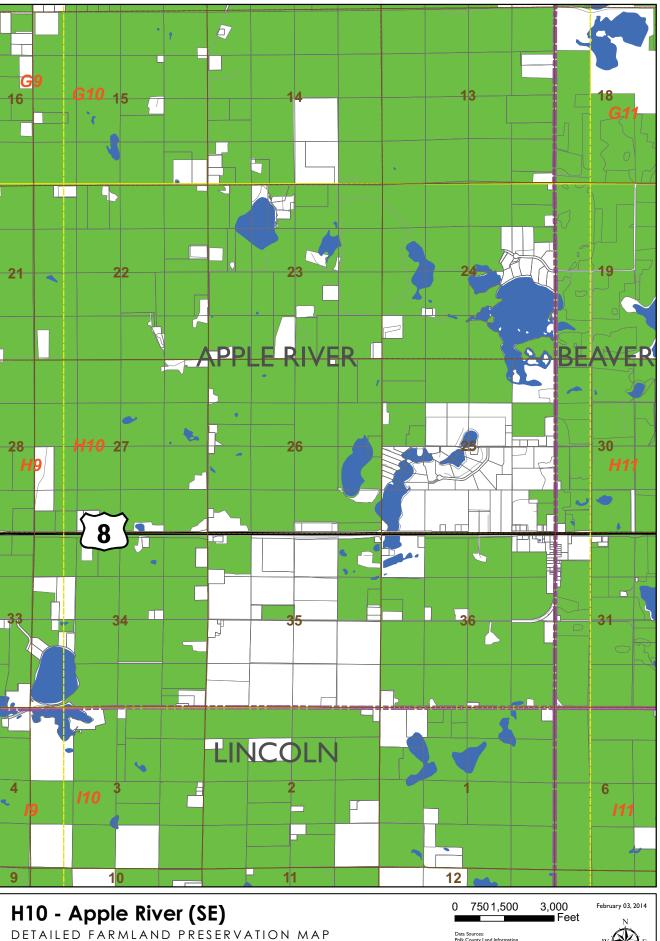
G9 - Apple River (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Fe

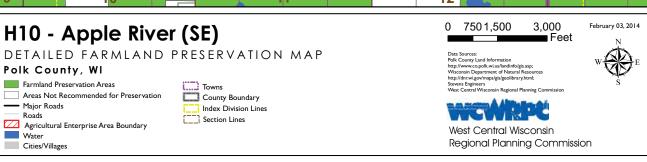


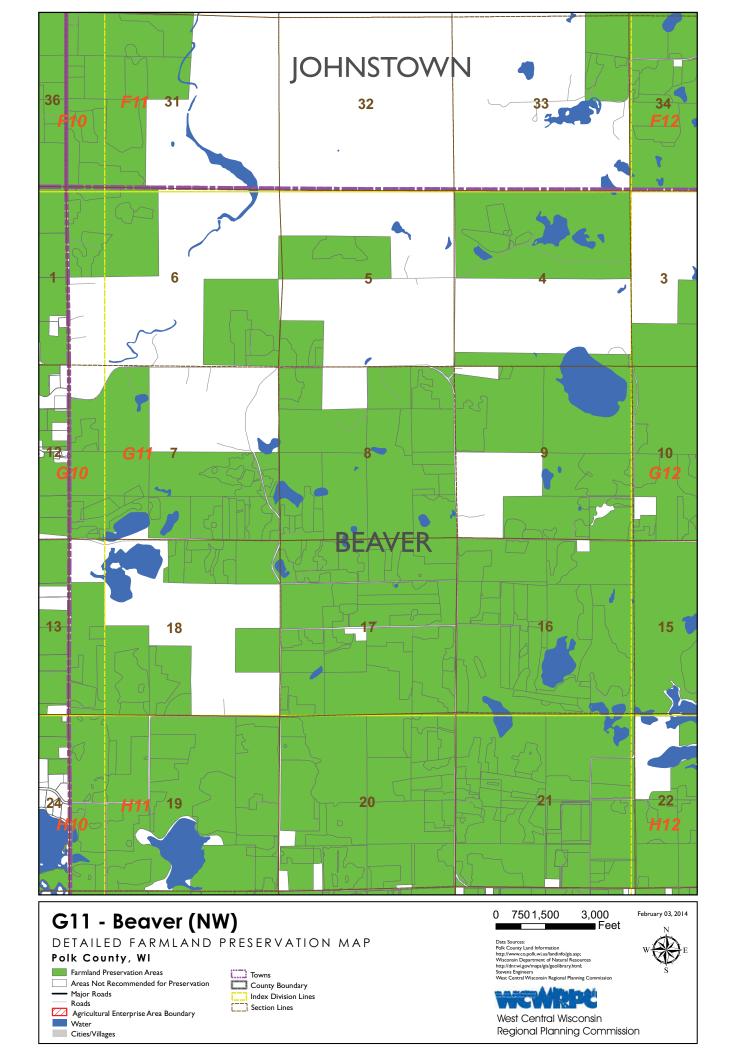


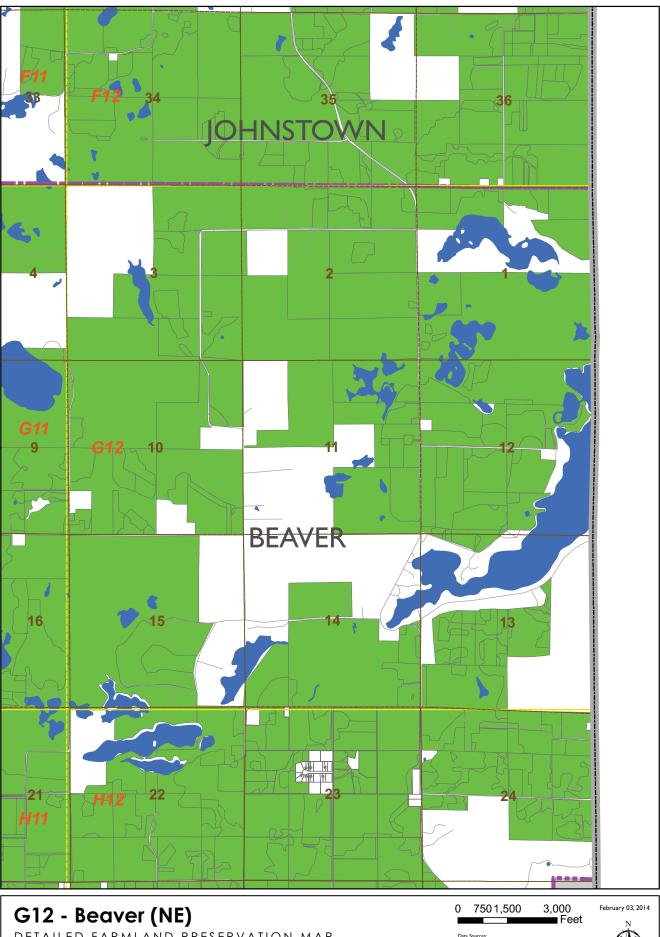


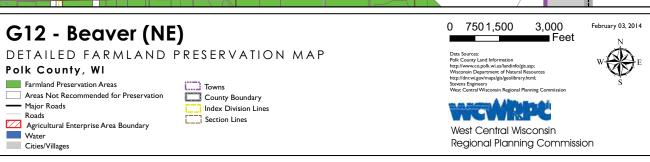


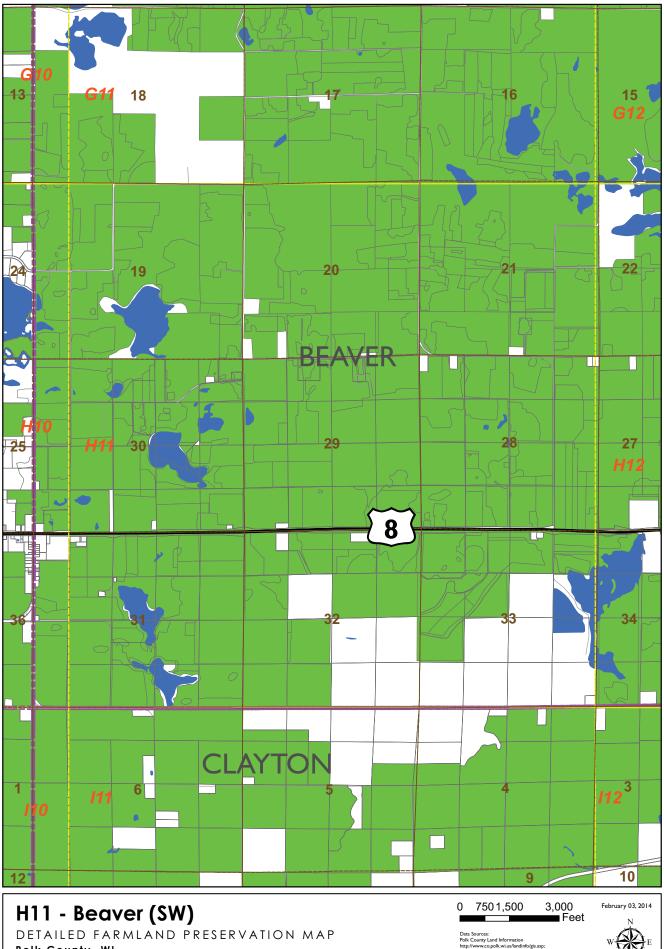




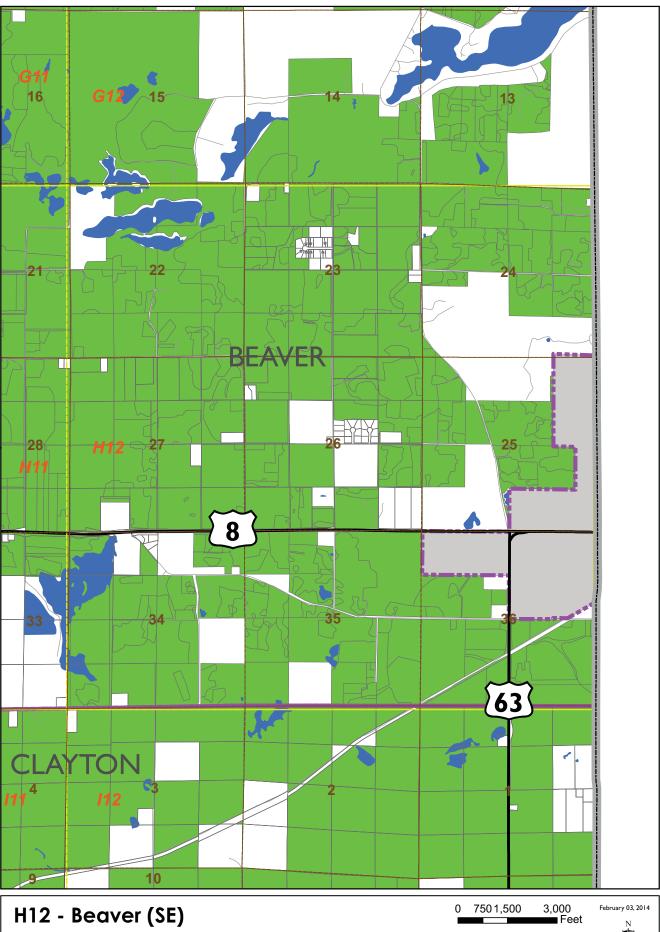


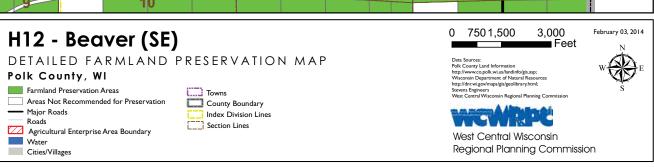


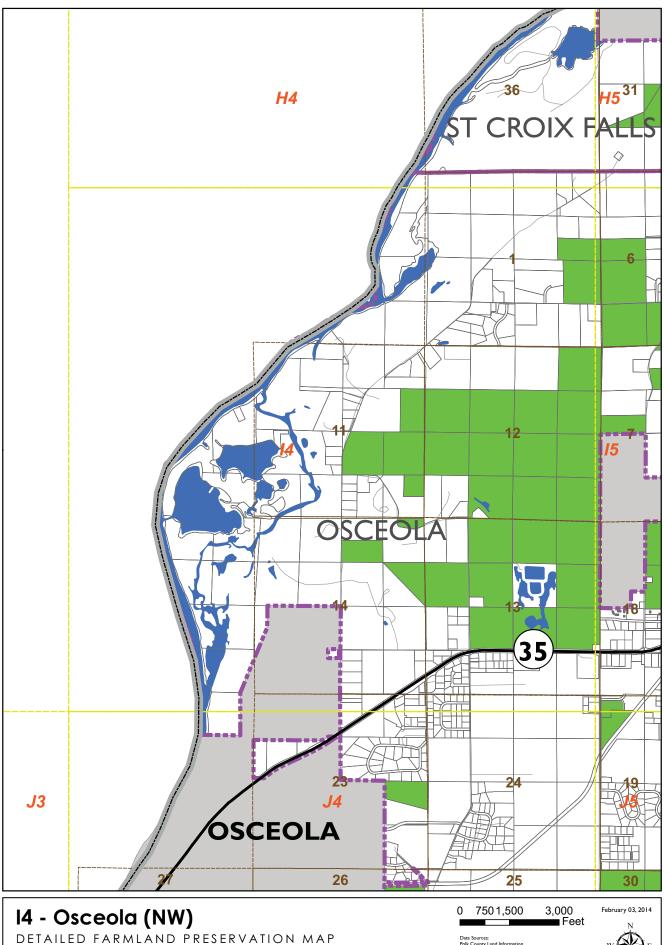


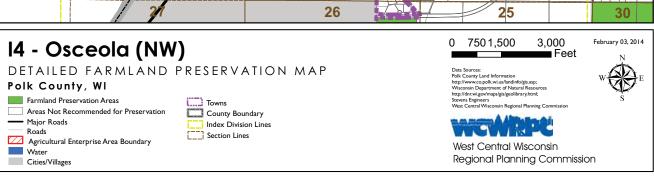


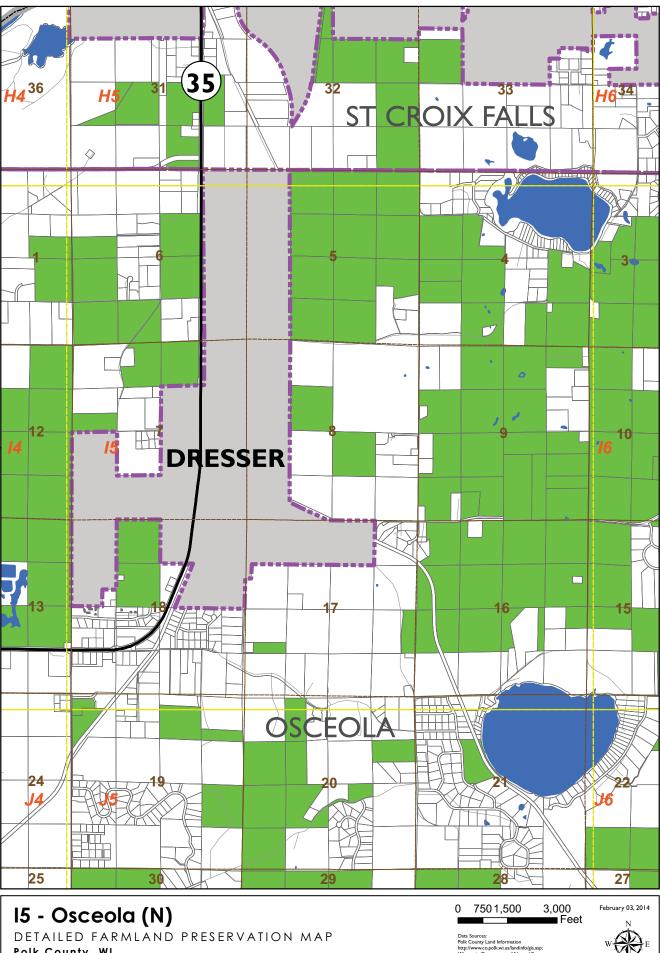
H11 - Beaver (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Water Polk County, WI Index Division Lines West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

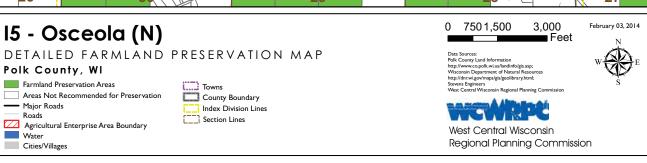


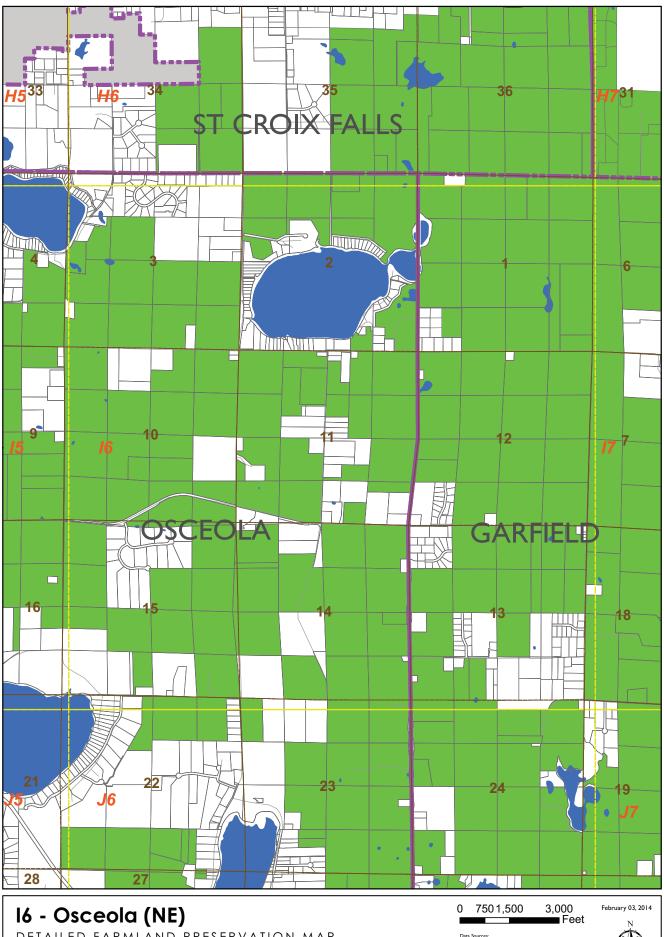


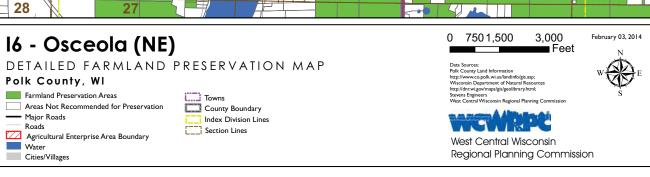


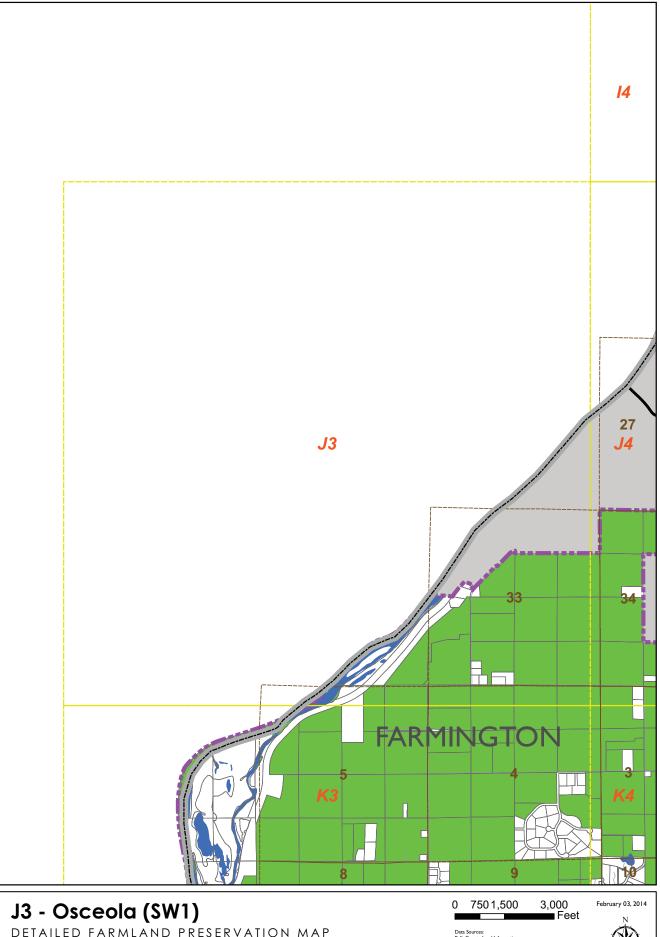


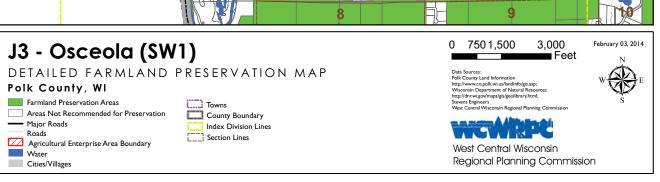


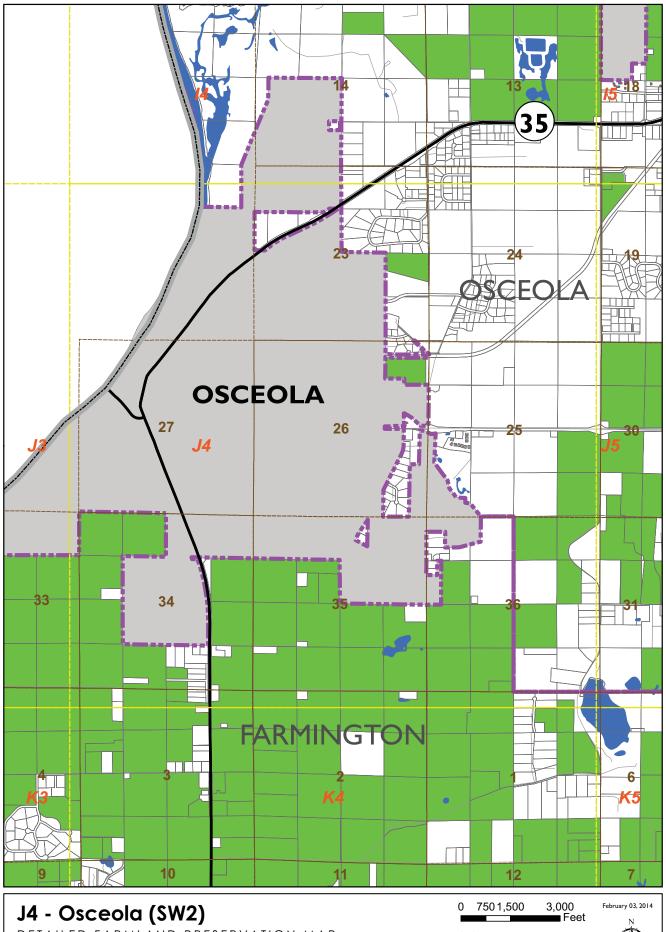




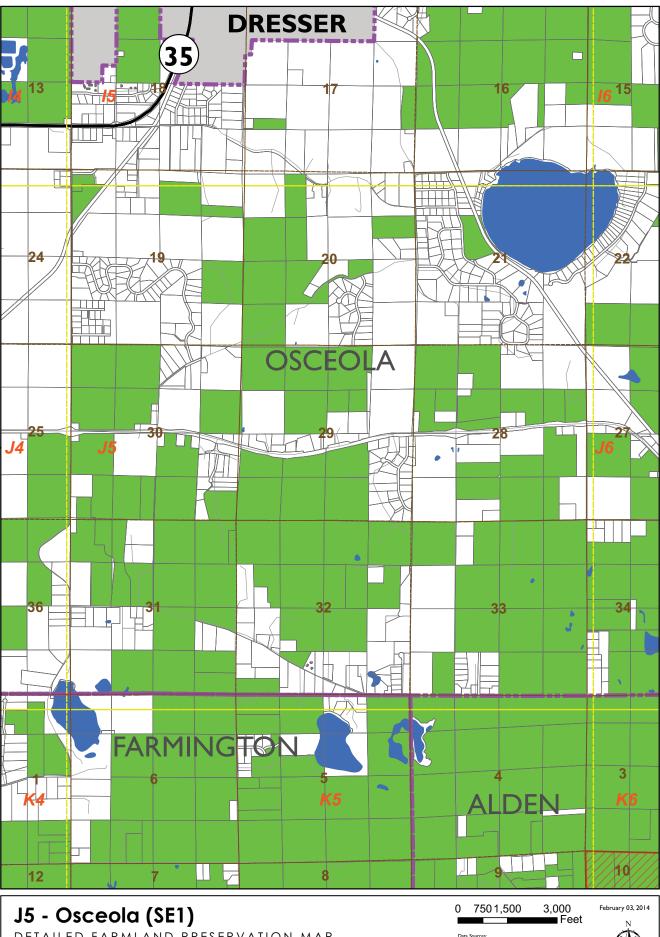


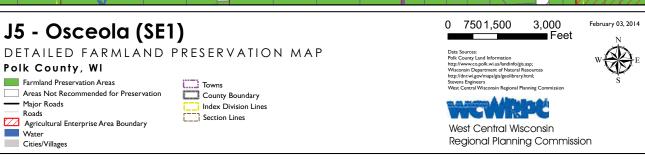


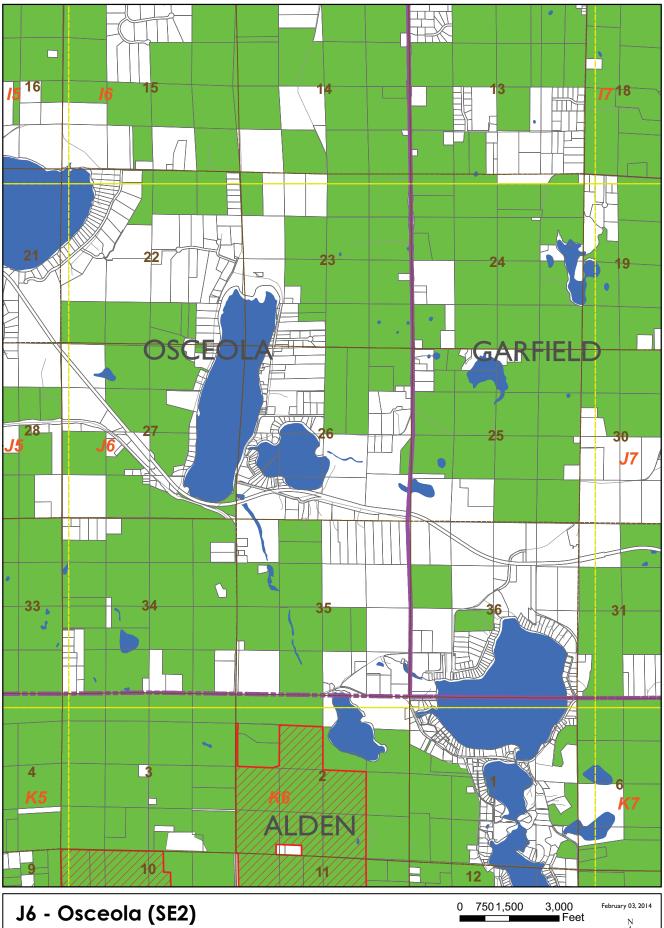




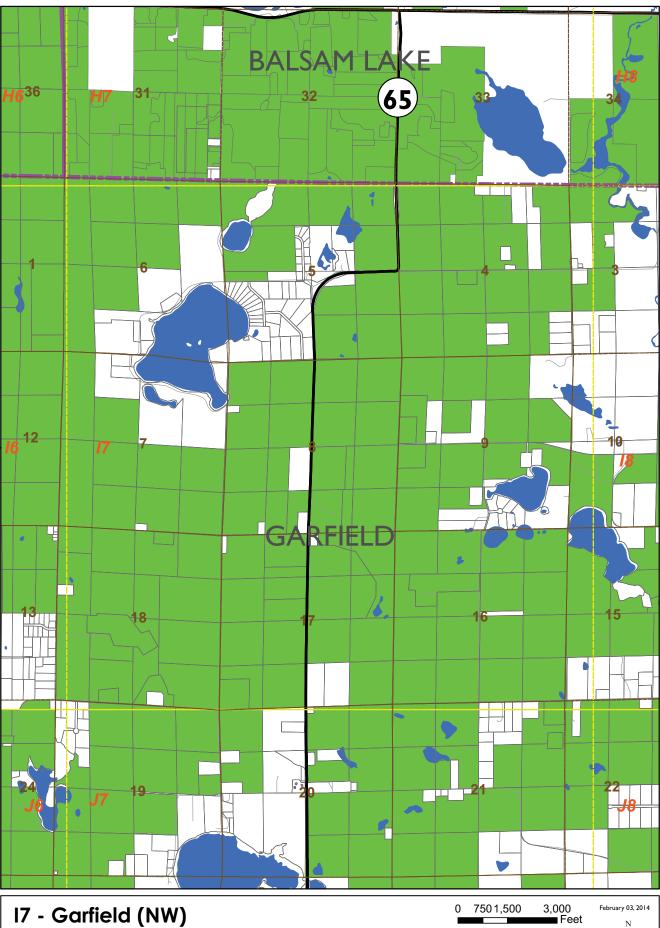




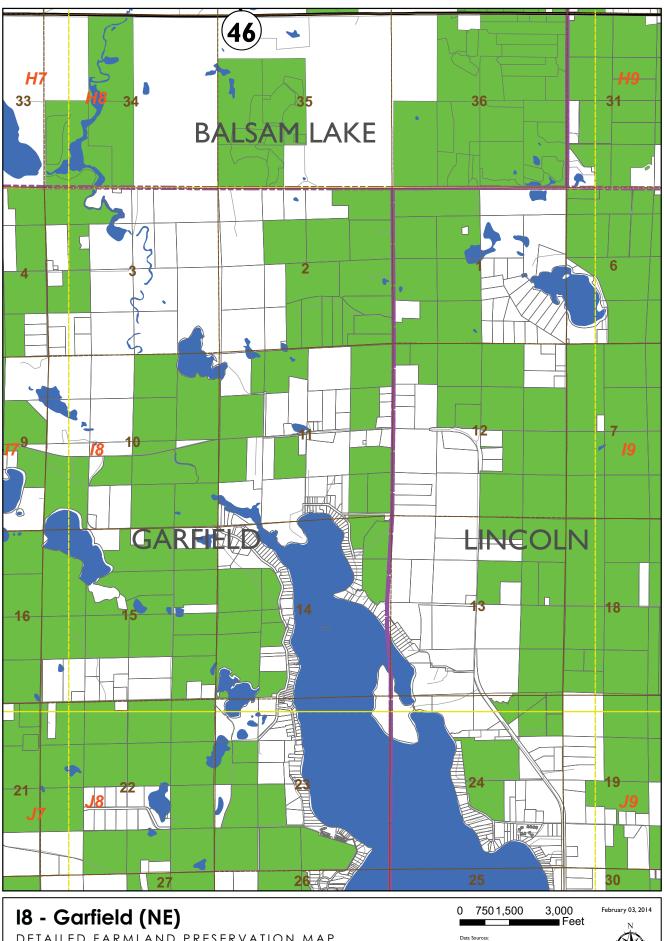


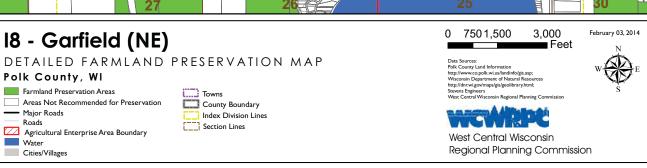


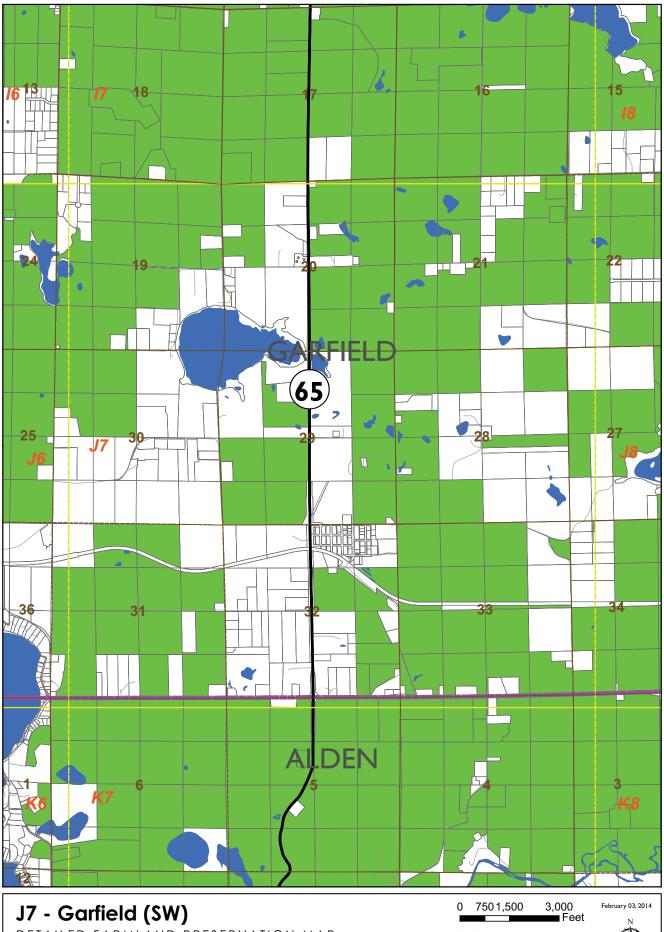
J6 - Osceola (SE2) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 WEST County Bound Internation Intern



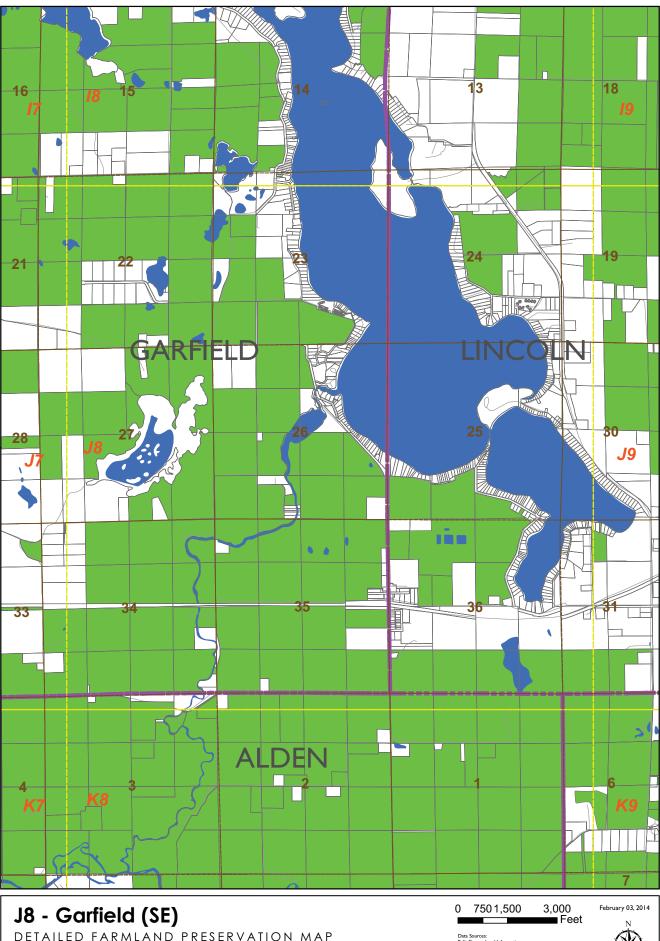
I7 - Garfield (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 February 04, 2014 February 04, 2014 February 04, 2014 February 05, 2014 February 05,

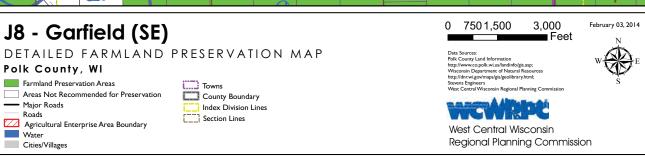


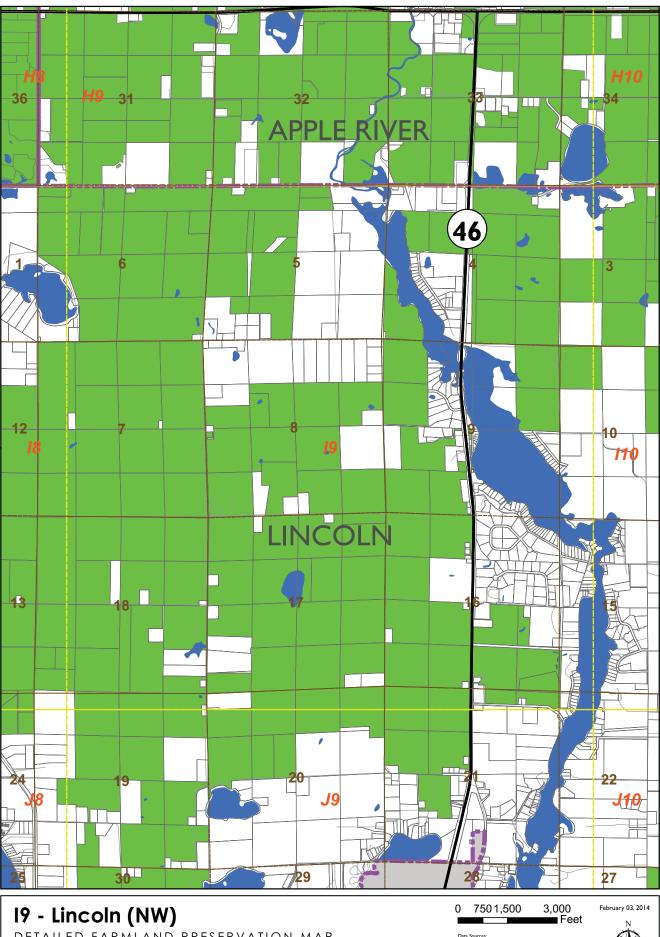




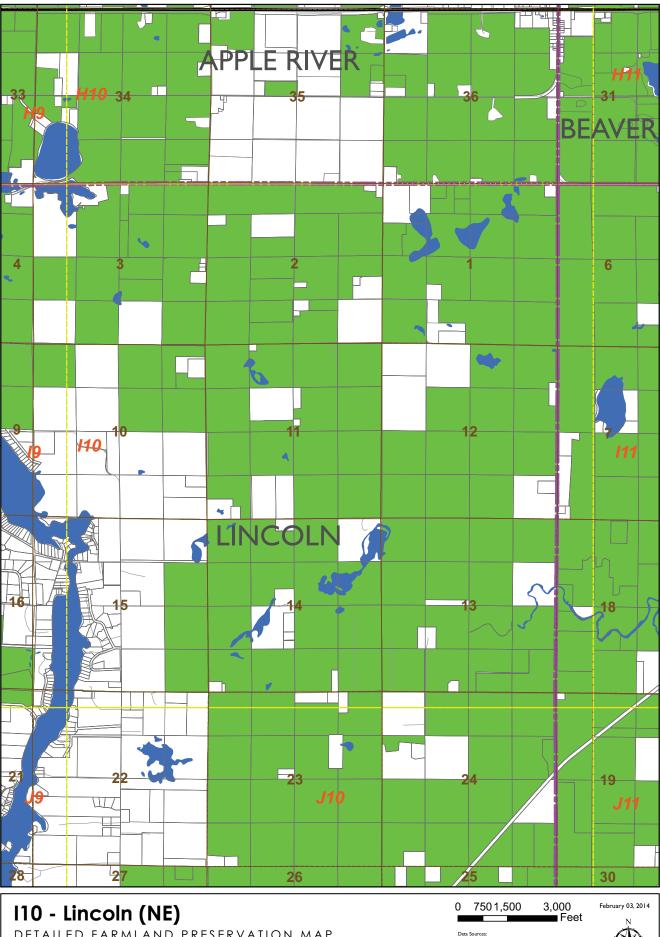
J7 - Garfield (SW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Polk County, MAP Data Source: Polk County Land Information Information Nucconsin Department of Natural Resources Integlifunce-cpolic validantifoligits asp: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Integlifunce-cpolic validantifolis asp: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Integlifunce-cpolic validantifolis Natural Resources Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Natural Resource

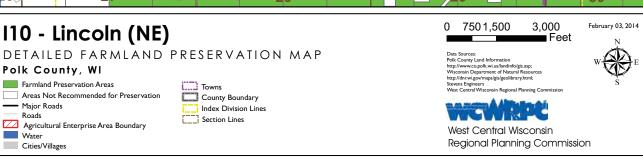


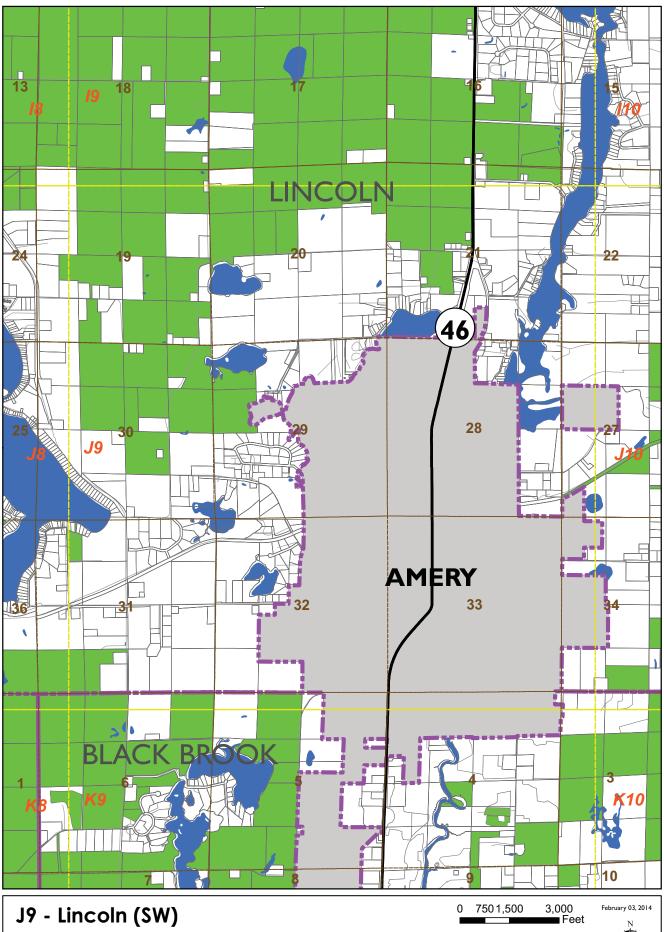


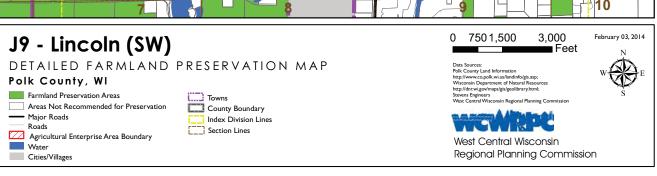


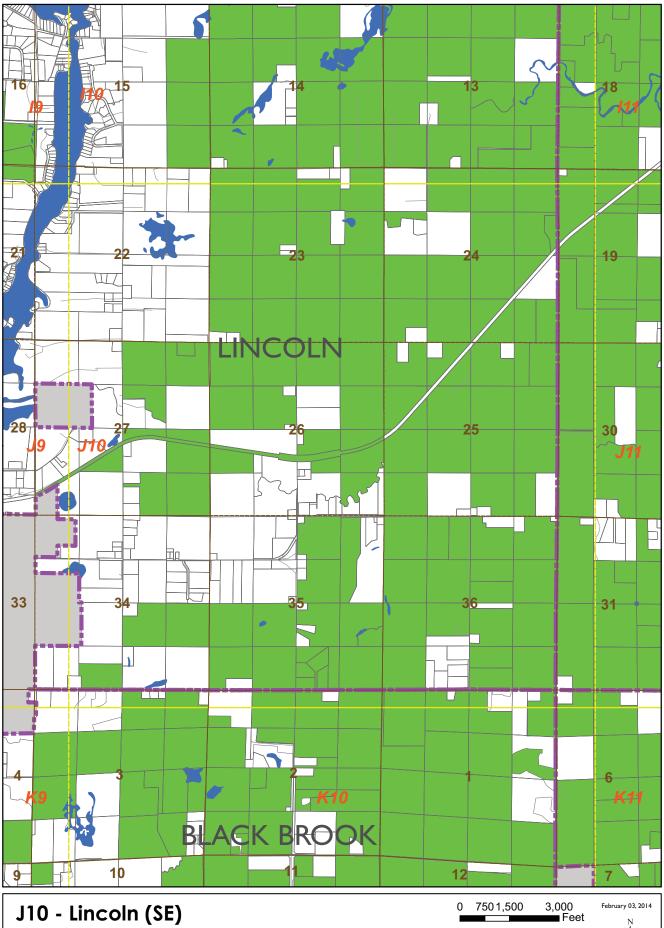




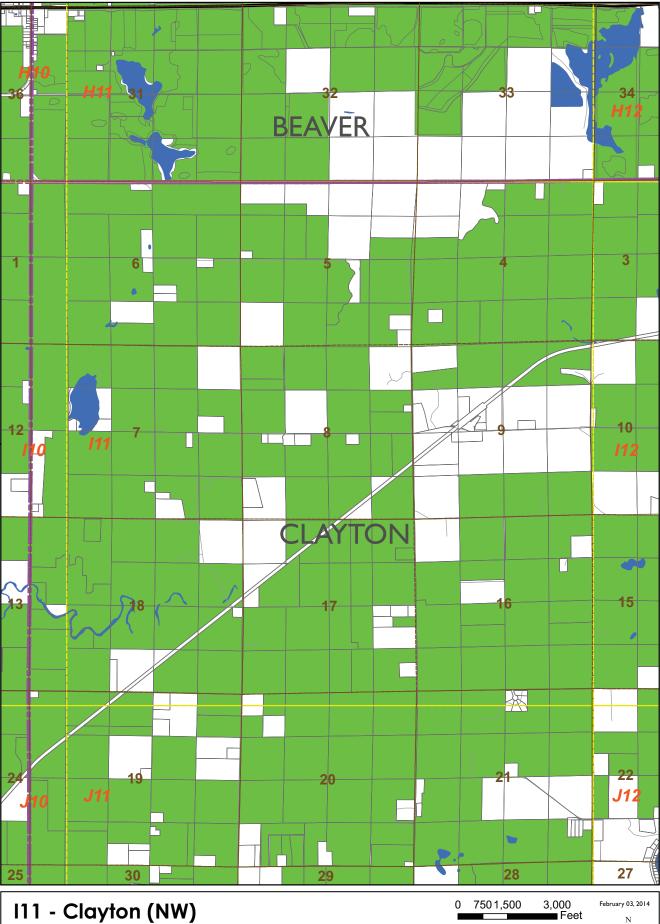




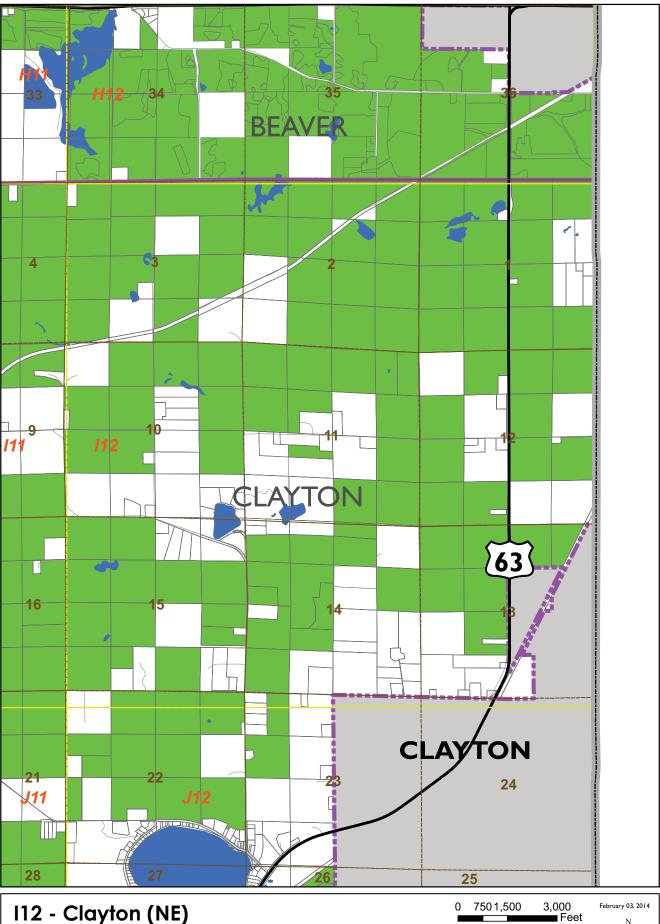




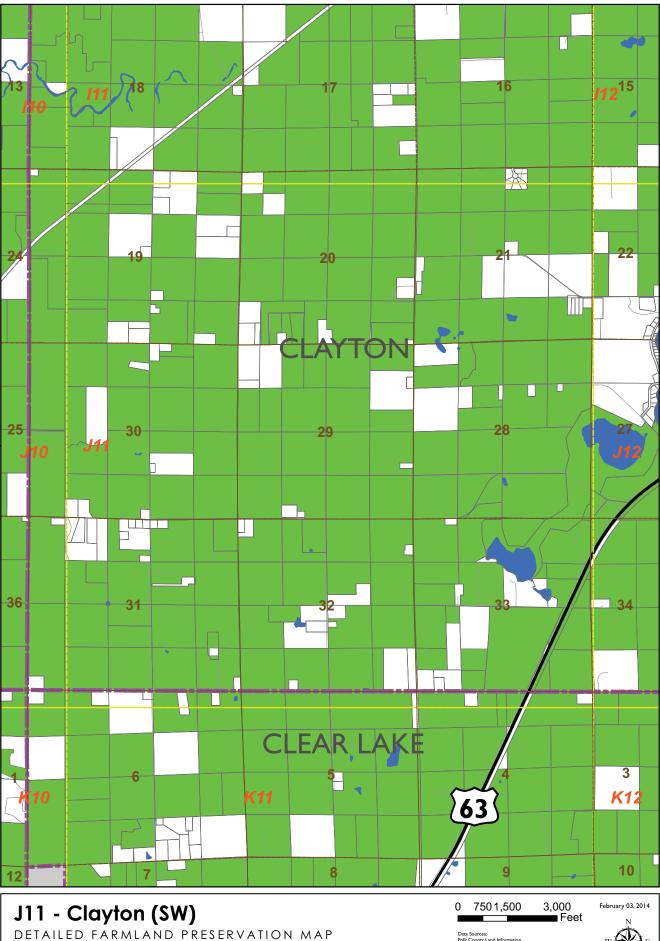
J10 - Lincoln (SE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 750 1,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Vest County Land Information Integril/www.copik. wuslinadinfoligis.asp; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Integril/derwig gov/mapi/pic/geolibrary.html; Sevents Eigeners Vest Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

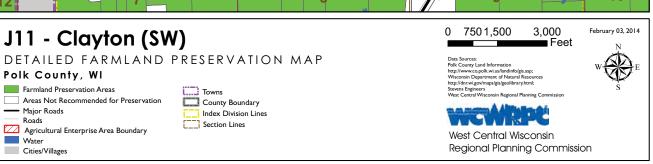


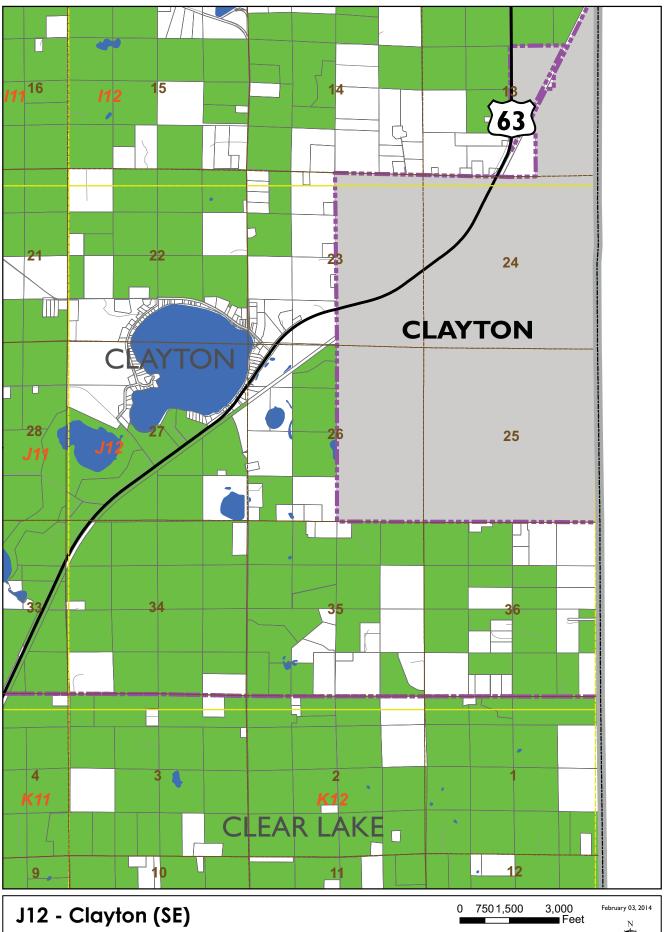
III - Clayton (NW) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Ro

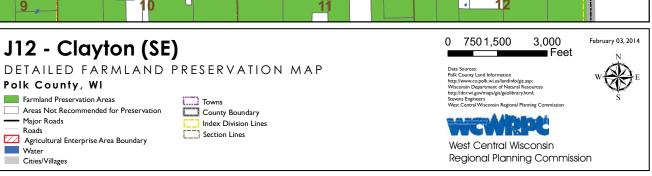


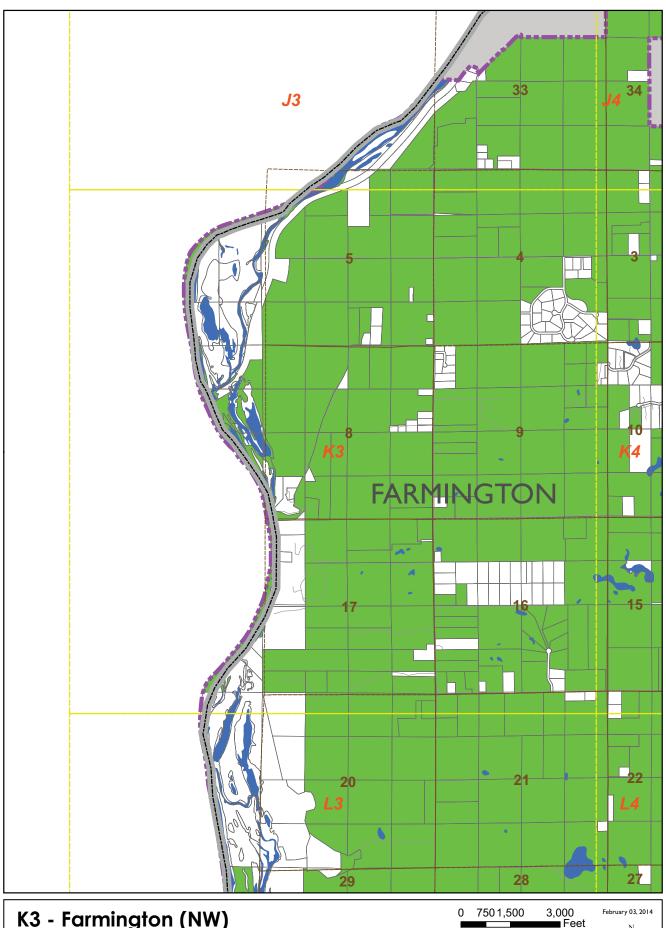


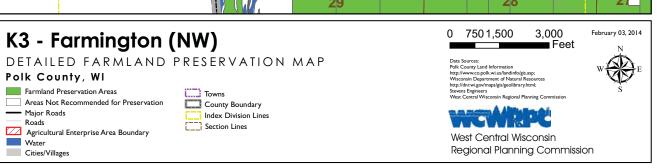


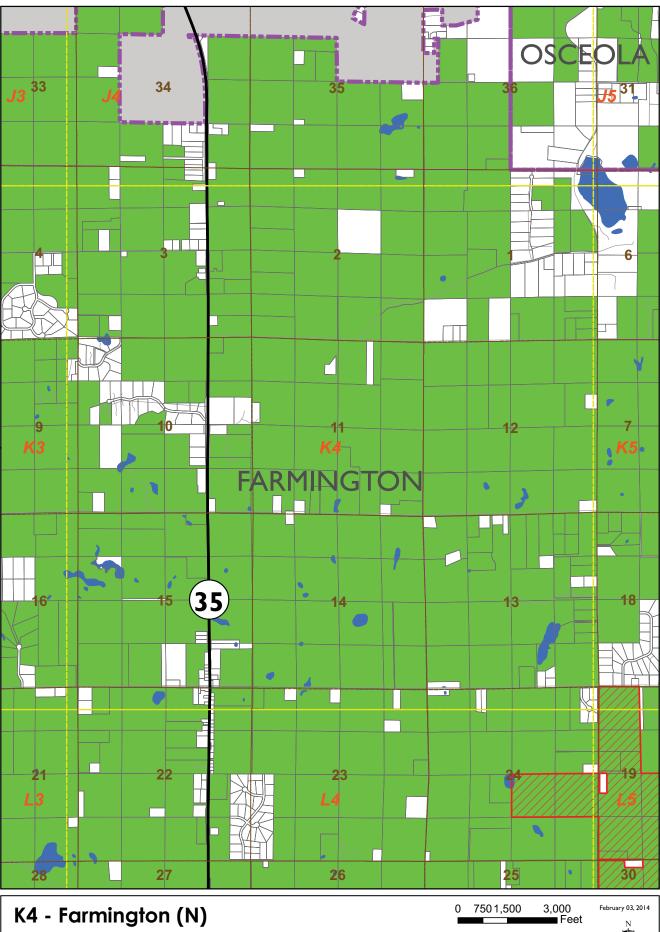


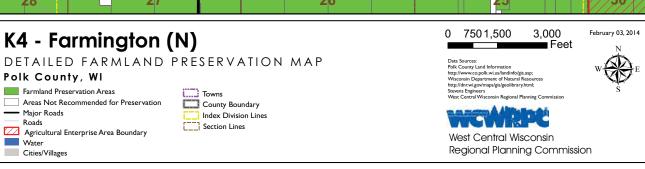


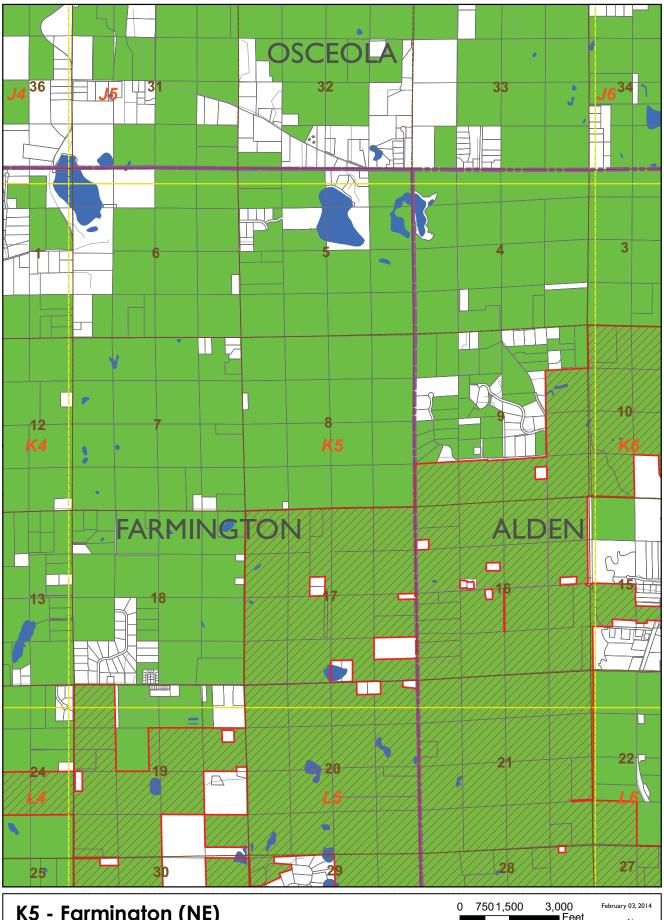




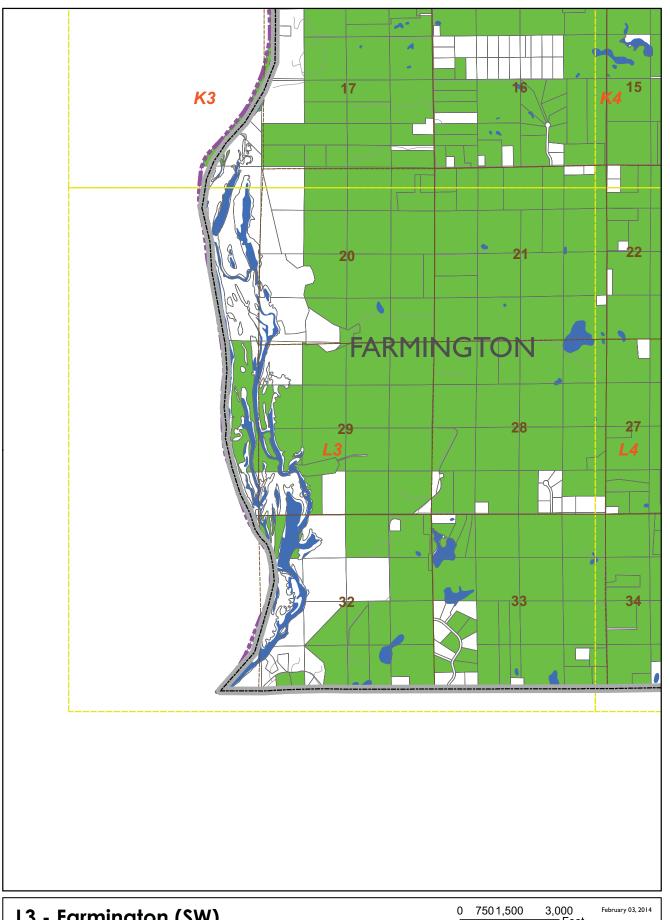


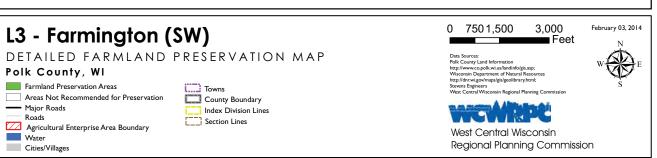


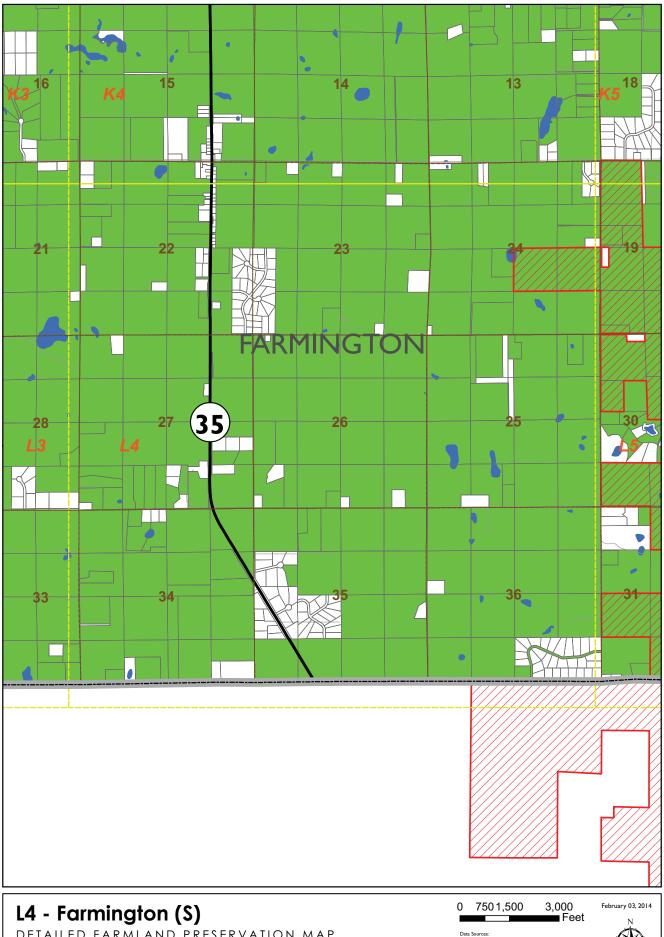




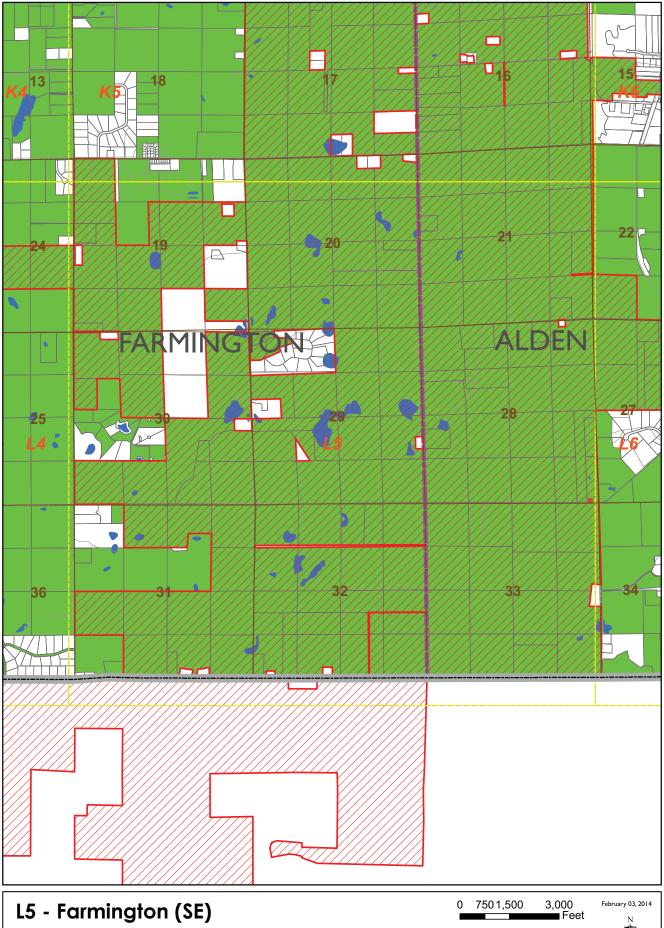
K5 - Farmington (NE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 750 1,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 Forbrand of Preservation Application of Preservation Nucleon Department of Natural Resources Interpliant on government (laptical preservation) Major Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages







L4 - Farmington (S) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 20 N Wisconsin Department of Natural Recounces http://div.ec.polk.wit.uflandinfolgis asp; Wisconsin Department of Natural Recounces http://div.ec.polk.wit.plandinfolgis asp



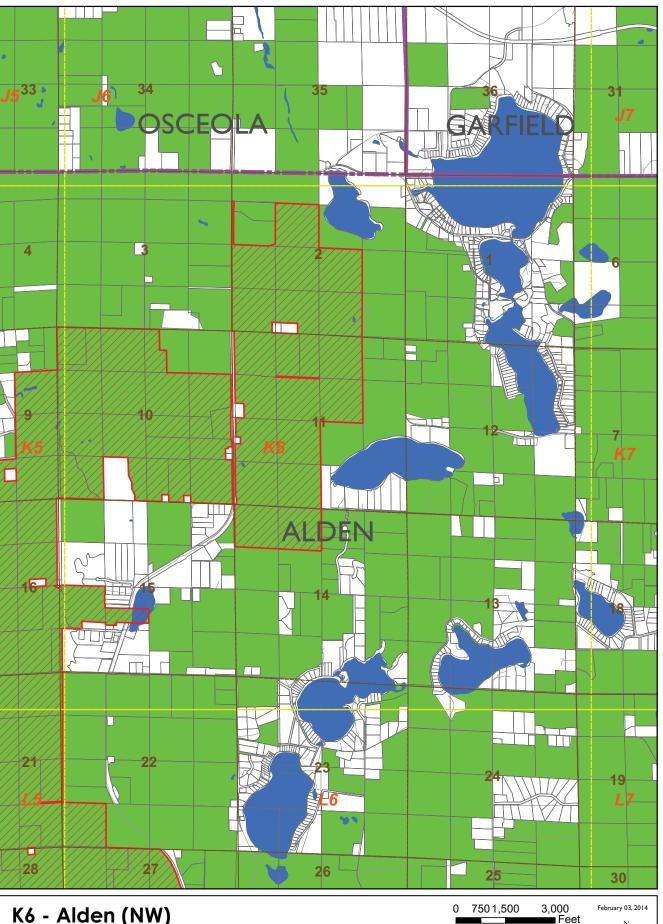
L5 - Farmington (SE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages

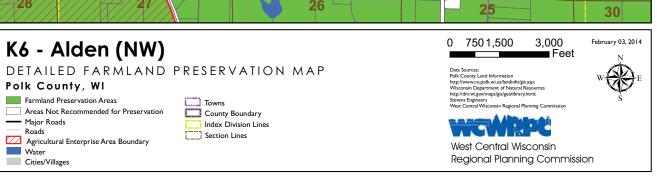
O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014

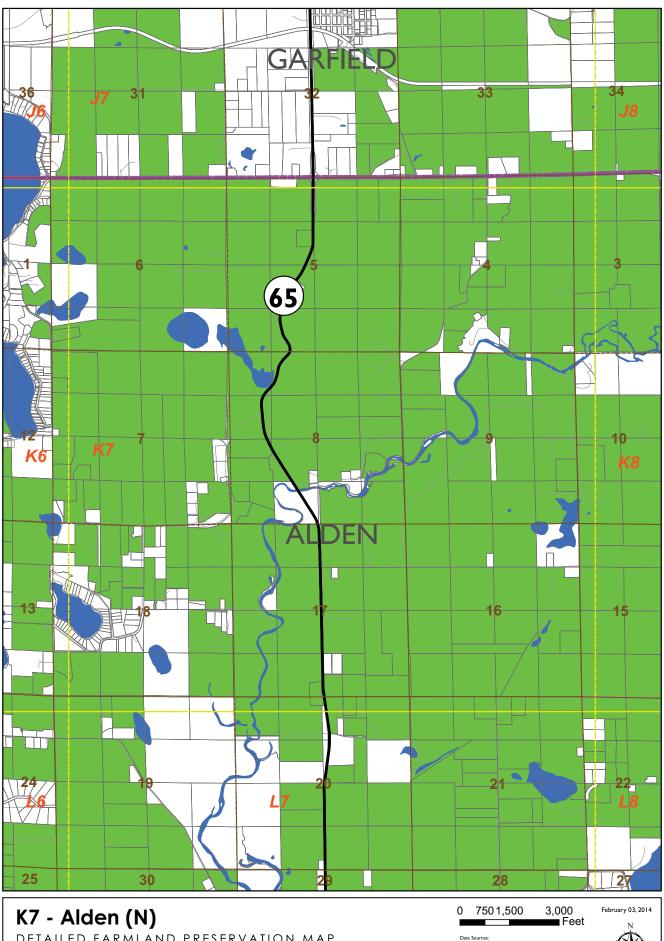
Feet

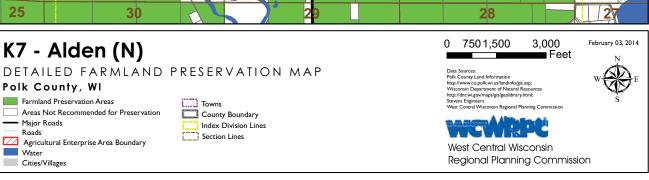
Data Sources:
Polik County Land Information
http://www.copik.wi.us/land/info/gis.asp;
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
http://distry/wiffice/gis/may/gis/gis/gis/distry/html;
Stevens Engineers
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

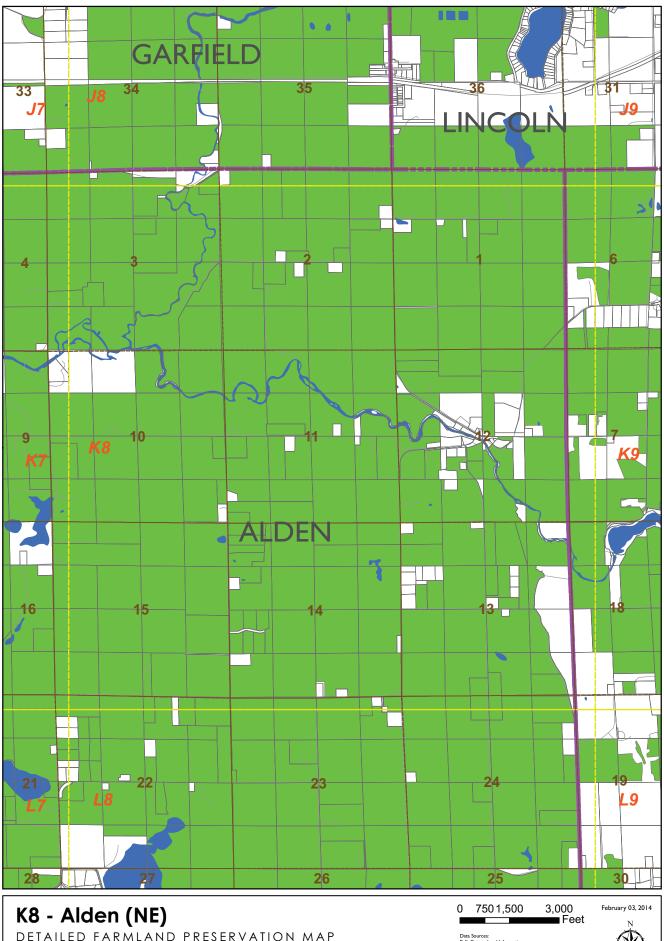
West Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission

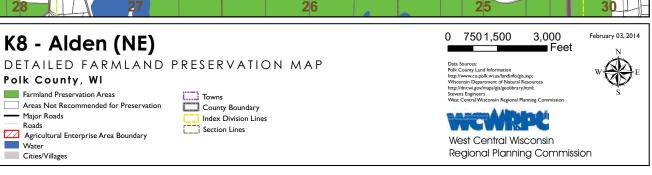


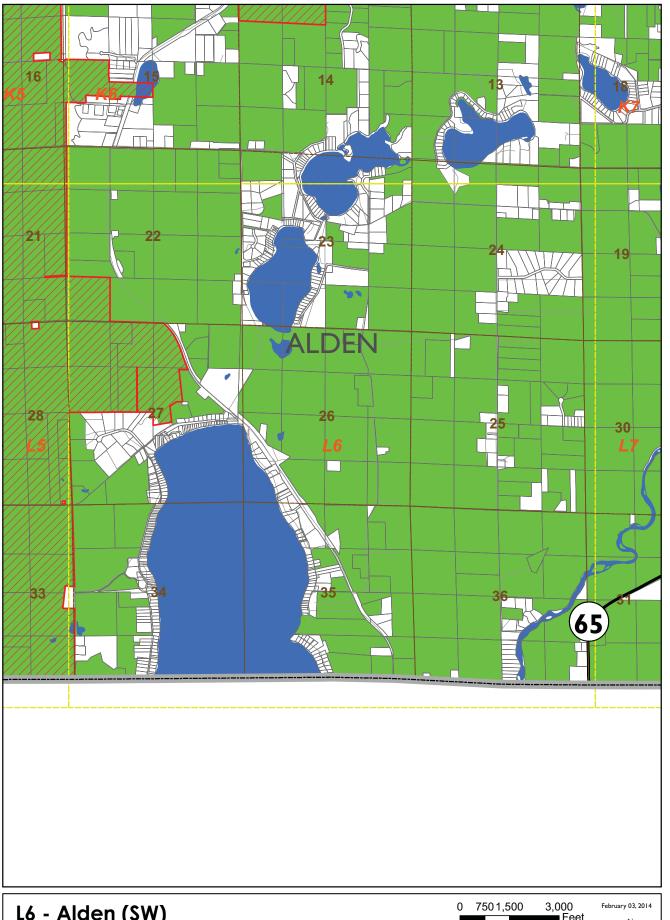


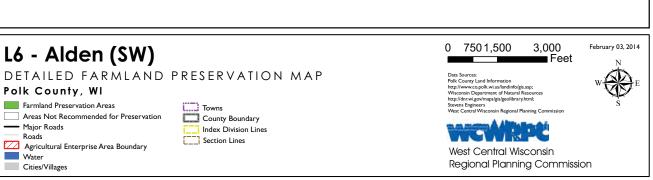


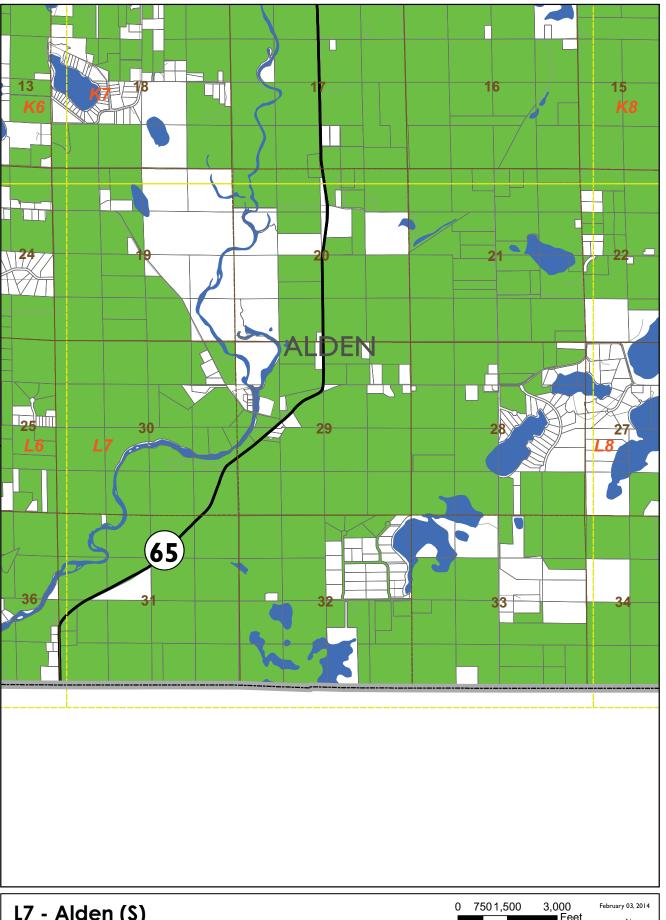


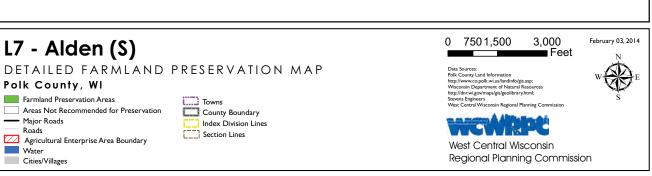


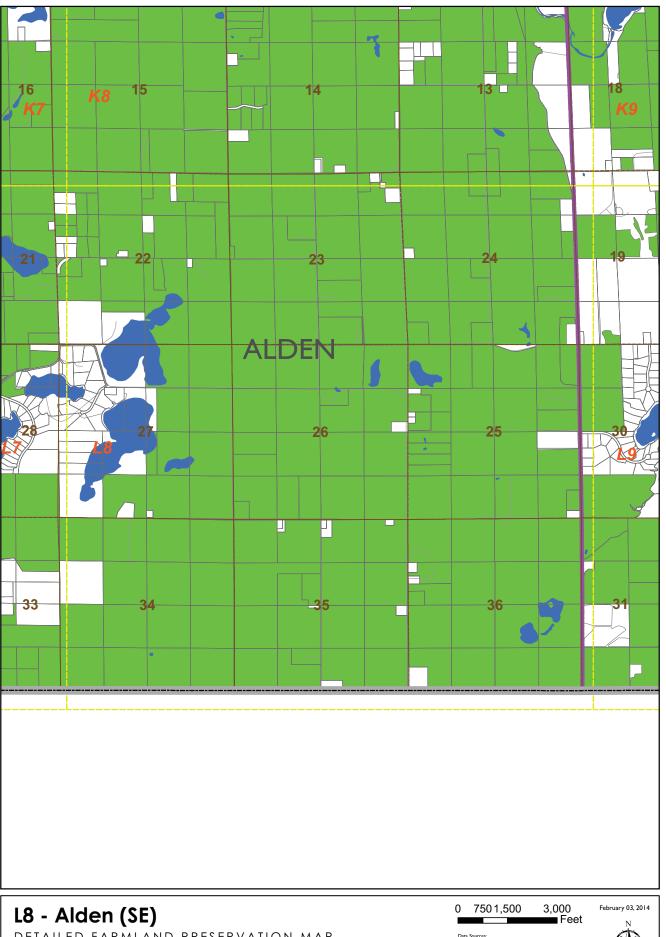


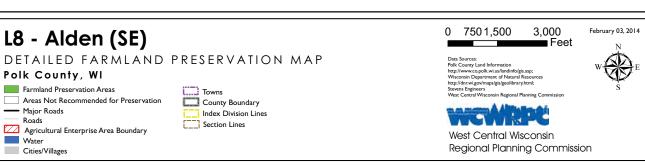


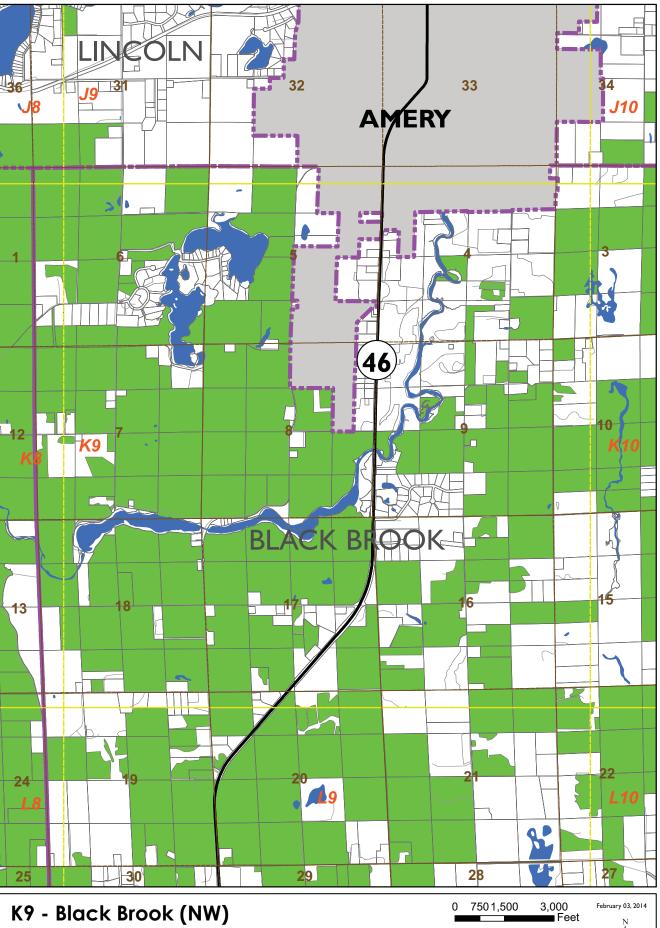


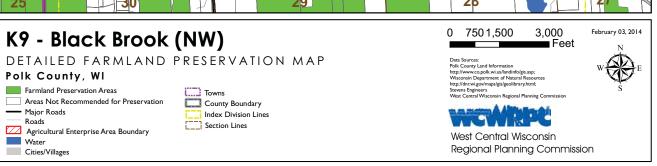


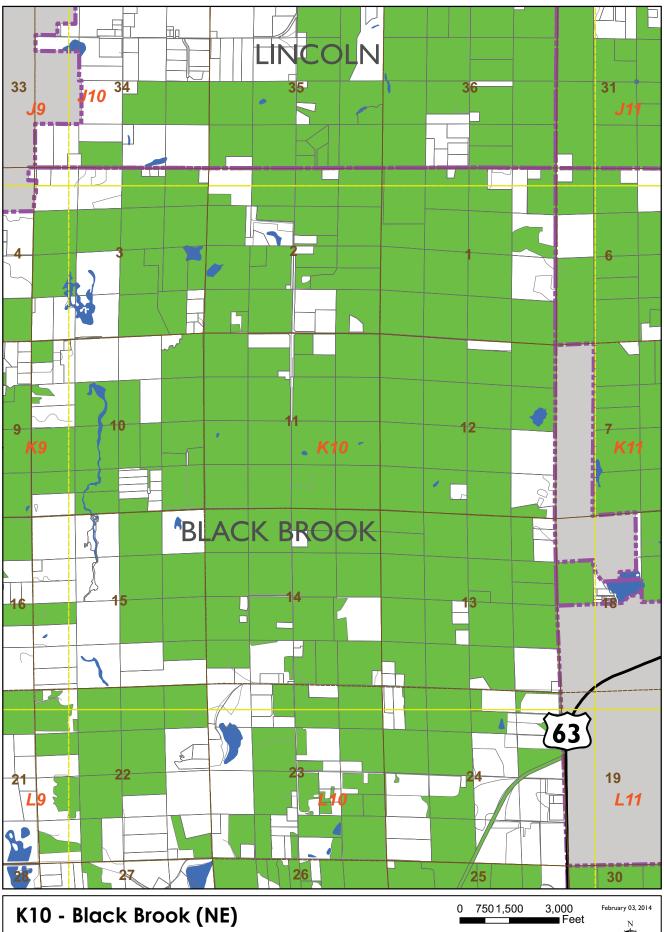


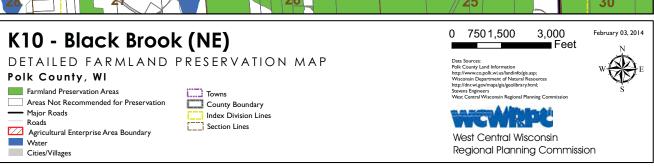


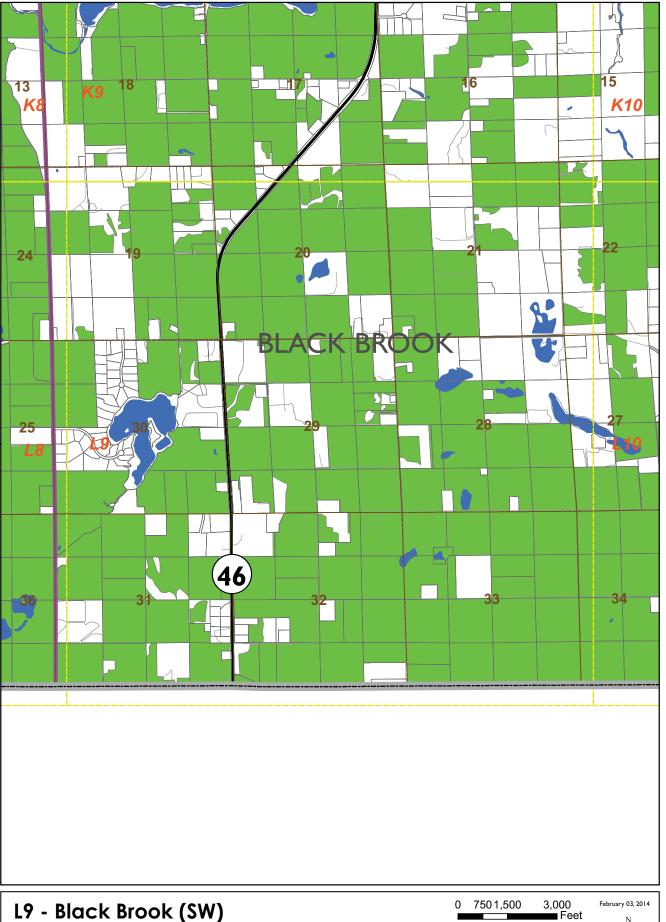


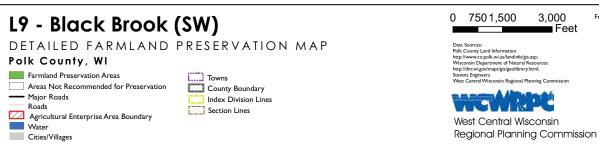


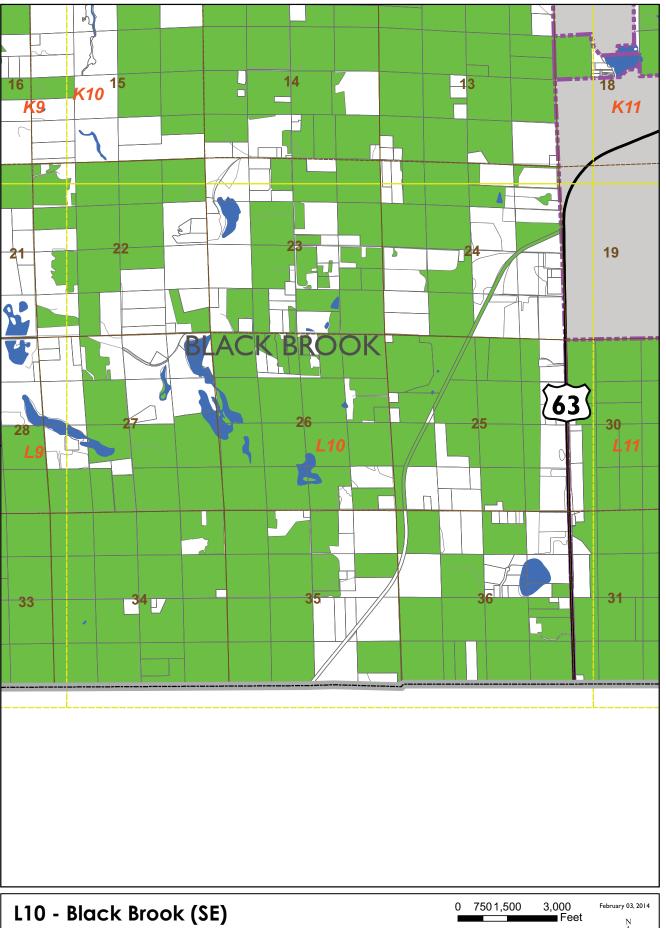












L10 - Black Brook (SE) DETAILED FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAP Polk County, WI Farmland Preservation Areas Areas Not Recommended for Preservation Major Roads Roads Roads Roads Roads Agricultural Enterprise Area Boundary Water Cities/Villages O 7501,500 3,000 February 03, 2014 N W February 03, 2014 Polk County June Information Interprive Natural Resources I

