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## Chapter 7

# Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

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### Introduction

A review and inventory of the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources in the Village of Woodville will provide a general overview of Woodville's natural and cultural features. Informed decisions can be made when addressing the future physical growth, development, and preservation of the Village's lands through the identification and analysis of features such as agriculturally productive areas, wetlands, endangered species, soil characteristics, and valued cultural resources. By identifying and analyzing these features, development can be guided to the most appropriate locations, thus protecting the Village's natural areas while identifying potential locations for responsible growth.

### Groundwater

Groundwater is an important natural resource in the Village of Woodville and any community. Understanding how groundwater is used and how it can become contaminated is important to understanding the relationship between land use and groundwater quality.

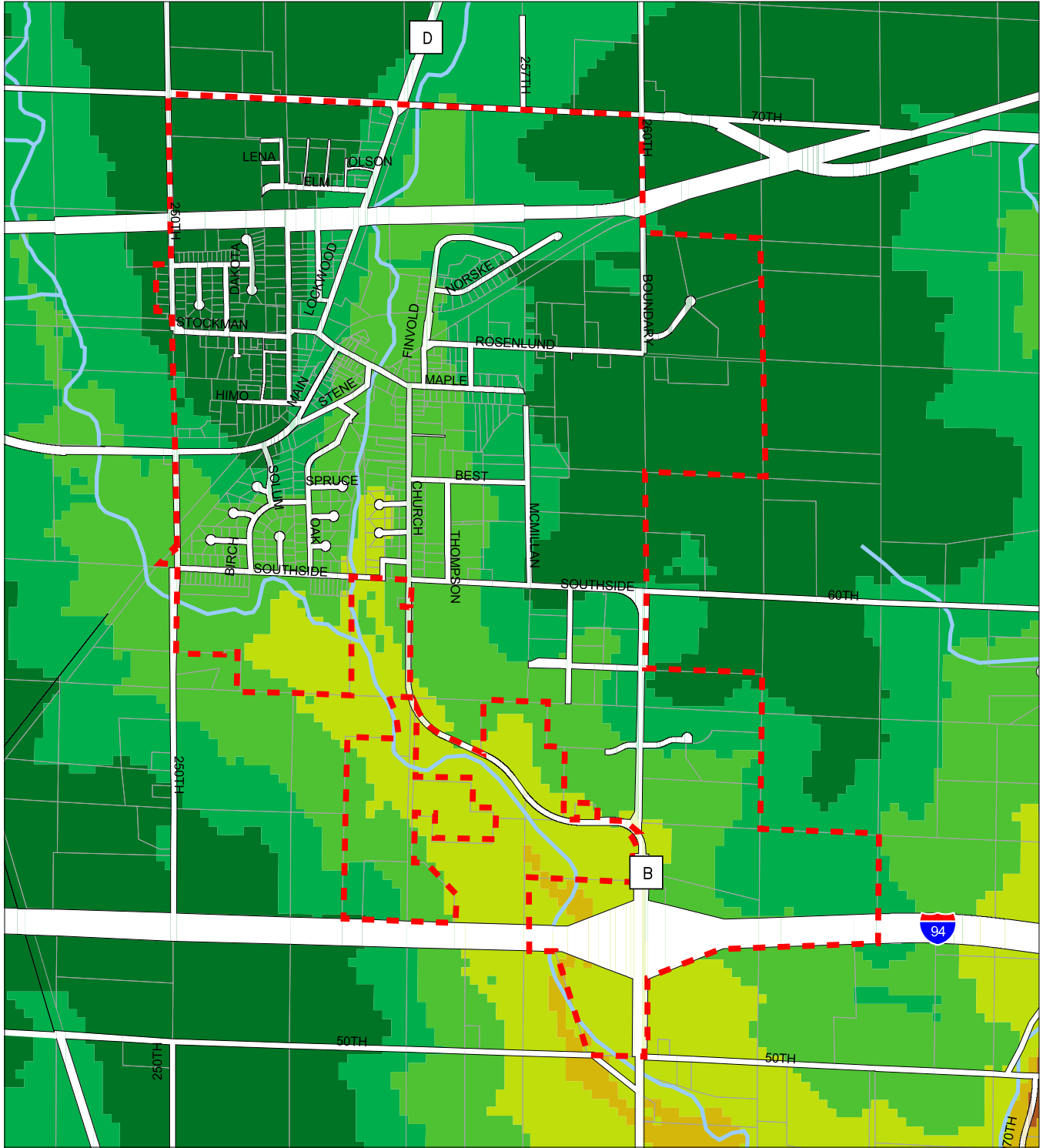
The first step in this process is to understand the source of groundwater. As rain and snow fall to the ground, some runs off into the lakes, rivers, and streams; some evaporates; and some is used by plants. The rest trickles down through the soil and subsoil material. This water eventually reaches a saturated zone that comprises groundwater. These saturated zones, called aquifers, are geologic formations that can store and transmit water. The concept of water moving from the land's surface into groundwater is the starting point for thinking about the relationship between land use and groundwater quality. Nearly anything, that is dumped, spilled, or spread on the ground can seep down to groundwater. This groundwater is then used by residents for drinking, farming, and other activities. Groundwater can also return to the surface as springs or as discharge to lakes, river, and streams.

Protecting groundwater means modifying or even prohibiting certain activities in areas where contaminants can easily enter the groundwater. This can mean changing the type of septic system required, or limiting the concentration of development in areas that are most susceptible to contamination.

The depth to groundwater in the Village of Woodville is relatively deep as most of the Village is over 50 feet or more (Map 7-1).

# DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER

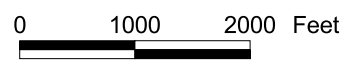
Village of Woodville  
St. Croix County, Wisconsin



- Village Limits
- Surface Water
- Parcels

Depth to Groundwater

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
|  | -58' to 0'  |
|  | 1' to 5'    |
|  | 6' to 10'   |
|  | 11' to 25'  |
|  | 26' to 50'  |
|  | 51' to 75'  |
|  | 76' to 100' |
|  | >100'       |



Source: Wisconsin DNR

## Environmentally Sensitive Areas & Wildlife Habitat

Environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitat are extremely important for the protection of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and plants. The preservation and possible expansion of these areas is vital to maintain a diverse ecosystem.

Environmentally sensitive areas also referred to as corridors, consist of forestland, slopes of 20% or greater, wetlands, floodplains, and buffers around the surface waters (300 feet around streams, and 1,000 feet around lakes and ponds). Each of these features is described in this chapter however, it is important to view them all together in order to identify contiguous environmental corridors. The integrity of these environmental corridors should be protected whenever possible. The Village may want to consider limiting development in and adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas.

## Threatened or Endangered Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an “endangered” species is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or significant portion of its range. A “threatened” species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future. These species are protected because of their scientific, educational, aesthetic, and ecological importance.

At this time, there are no identified threatened or endangered species or sensitive wildlife habitats in or adjacent to the Village of Woodville. Residents who believe that they may have an occurrence of a threatened or endangered species on their property can contact the DNR to have it investigated.

## Forests

The Wisconsin Initiative for Statewide Cooperation on Landscape Analysis and Data (WISCLAND) completed a statewide land classification system in 1999. WISCLAND defines a forest as “an upland area of land covered with woody perennial plants, the tree reaching a mature height of at least 6 feet tall with a definite crown”.

Forests provide valuable wildlife habitat and are the homes for less visible threatened and endangered plant and wildlife. Forests and trees can help protect other resources too. They can reduce heating and cooling costs of homes and business. Forests and trees offer erosion control for river banks and steep slopes.

In urban areas, forests, and trees are used for traffic calming, the creation of parks, and add overall aesthetics that enhance the quality of life for residents. A

contiguous forest is extremely important. The fragmentation of land can result in the disruption of habitat and can lead to problems between wildlife and humans. The Village's forested land is scattered throughout the area (Map 7-2).

## Topography & Slope

The Village of Woodville has a relatively flat topography with very few steep slopes within the Village. The steep slopes are primarily located in the northwestern portion of the Village along Division Street and the northeastern portions of the Village (Map 7-3). It is important to maintain vegetation on steep sloped areas to provide erosion protection.

## Surface Water & Stream Corridors

The Village of Woodville has one large wetland located south of Southside Drive (Map 7-4). Existing wetlands and ponds provide habitat for wildlife and wetlands act as natural filters and holding areas for storm water runoff.

Development near these areas has the potential to have a negative impact on the quality of water in the surface waters and the function of the wetlands. Shorelands and wetlands are protected under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) Shoreland and Wetland Ordinance.

Carr Creek, a branch of the Eau Galle River flows through the Village. Carr Creek set the stage for lumbering and the birth of Woodville. Today the creek is enjoyed by many for recreation; Steven Memorial Park follows the creek through portions of the Village. Woodville completely lies within the Eau Galle River watershed, part of the Lower Chippewa water management district.

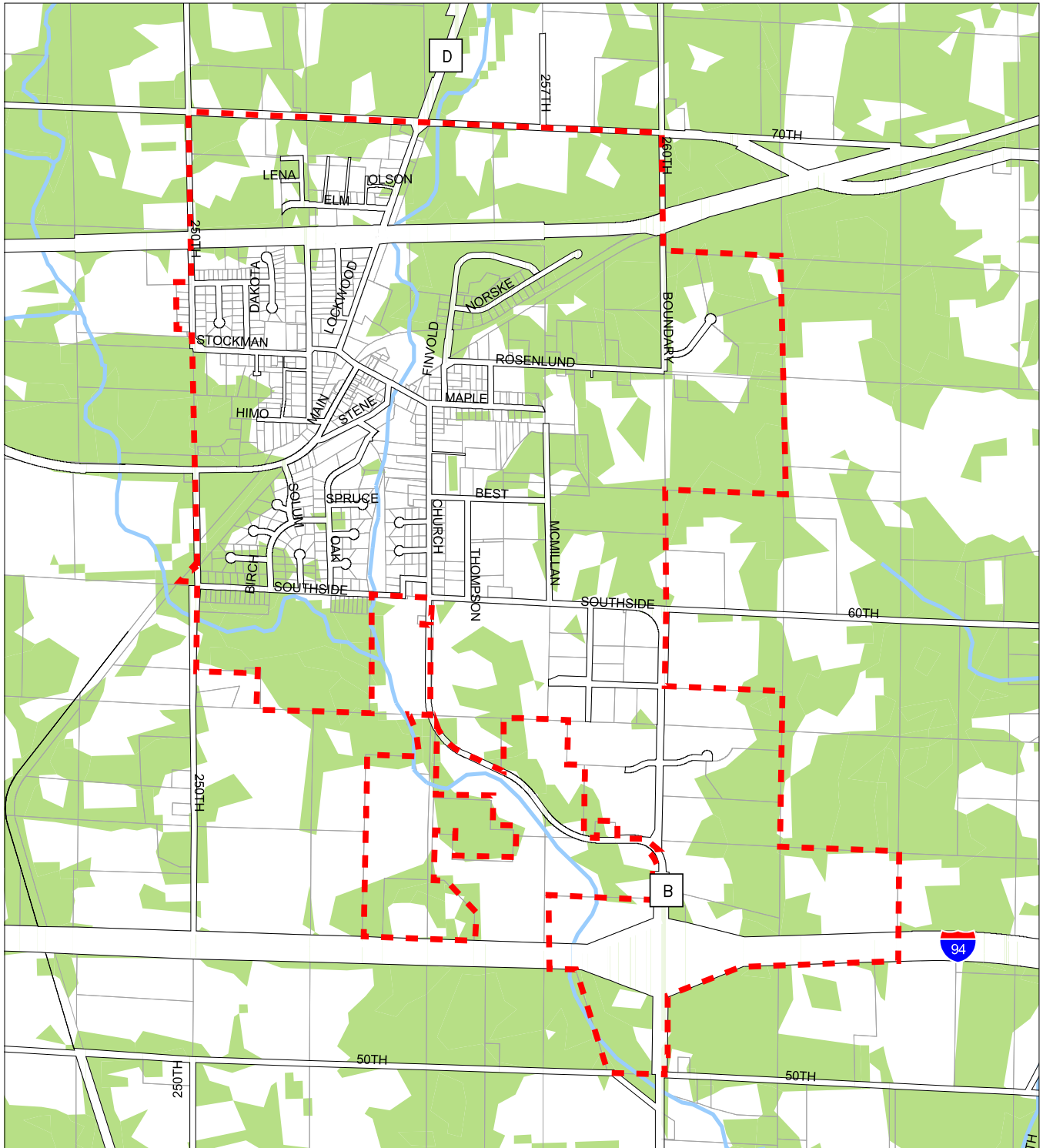
## Floodplains & Wetlands

The floodplains located in the Village are concentrated to the lands along/adjacent to the Carr Creek. The floodplain is generally narrow, except those portions north of E. River Street.

There is a large amount of wetland area surrounding Carr Creek in the southwestern portion of the Village. Some of those wetlands were identified by the Wisconsin DNR to have concerns with erosion due to flooding and wave action in the area.

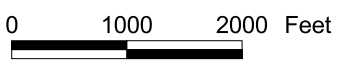
# FORESTLAND

Village of Woodville  
St. Croix County, Wisconsin



- Village Limits
- Surface Water
- Parcels

- Land Cover
- Forestlands







## **Metallic/Non-metallic Mineral Resources**

Metallic and non-metallic mineral resources are naturally occurring sources of metal-bearing ore and non-metallic (rock or sand and gravel) materials, respectively. When economically viable, these materials may be removed through mining to process the raw materials into commercial or industrial products. Metallic mining is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Non-metallic mining is regulated by ordinances by St. Croix County, regulating non-metallic mining and reclamation following completion of mining activities. There are no mines within the Village of Woodville.

## **Parks, Open Space & Recreational Resources**

The Village of Woodville is home to nine park or recreation areas and the Wildwood Trail starts at the southern edge of the Village. Further detail on the Village parks is discussed in Chapter 6: Utilities and Community Facilities.

The Wildwood Trail is a seven-mile off-road hiking, biking and snowmobiling trail on a former railroad right-of-way, which runs from the Village of Woodville south to the St. Croix/Pierce County line, through the Town of Eau Galle.

St. Croix County purchased the railroad grade from the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railway Company in 1970. In addition to winter snowmobiling, there is consistent, regular usage by joggers, bicyclists, and hikers during the spring, summer, and fall. All motorized vehicle traffic, except snowmobiles, is prohibited on the trail (source: St. Croix County Parks Department).

Residents and visitors of Woodville also have many opportunities to enjoy the natural resources of St. Croix County through parks, trails, and other public lands. There are 163 miles of maintained and groomed snowmobile trails throughout the County. The County has designated 185 miles of county roadway as bicycle routes (the County recently completed a bicycle plan). There are approximately 40 miles of designated cross-country ski trails in St. Croix County and approximately 36 miles of hiking trails in county and community parks.

St. Croix County has 196 public and 1,236 private camping sites at eleven campgrounds. There are approximately 10,273 acres of public hunting land in St. Croix County. There are twelve public and private golf courses in the County. There are 7,615 surface acres of fishing lakes and 27 trout streams that total 81 miles in St. Croix County. There are 15 named lakes and flowages. Only four bodies of water can accommodate water skiing, large pleasure boats or sail boats. These are Bass Lake, Cedar Lake, Lake Mallalieu, and Lake St. Croix and the St. Croix River (source: West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission).

## Historical/Cultural Resources

The Woodville Community Library has a large selection of historic photos and other materials for the public to view. Their database is valued as a historical resource.

## Archeological Sites

The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) maintains a database of known archaeological sites and historical buildings. There may be other sites not yet identified.

A search of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) database reveals that there are no archaeological sites listed for the Village of Woodville.

## Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory

The Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) was a project started in mid-1970. It was started to collect information on historic buildings, sites, and structures. Beginning in 1980, more intensive surveys were conducted by professional historic preservation consultants and funded through subgrants.

A search of the AHI database shows that there are seven properties in the Village of Woodville (Table 7-1). The Village has also created an inventory of buildings it believes are worth noting for future consideration into the AHI database (Table 7-2).

Table 7-1 – Architecture and History Inventory – Village of Woodville

| Record # | Location  | Current Status                      | Architectural Style or Form | Resource Type                                |
|----------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 26197    | MAIN ST, E SIDE, S OF RIVER ST                        |                                     | BOOMTOWN                    | HOUSE  |
| 26198    | LOCKWOOD ST, W SIDE, BETWEEN RIVER ST AND RAILROAD ST | ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH                | NEOGOTHIC REVIVAL           | CHURCH                                       |
| 26199    | JOHNSON ST, 215                                       |                                     | BUNGALOW                    | HOUSE  |
| 26200    | DIVISION ST AND HIMO ST, NW CNR                       |                                     | DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL      | HOUSE  |
| 26201    | 500 MAPLE ST  | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH                | OTHER VERNACULAR            | CHURCH                                       |
| 26202    | NEAR DOWNTOWN   |                                     | TWO STORY CUBE              | HOUSE  |
| 26203    | ROSENLUND ST AND ELDER ST, SE CNR                     | <i>BUILDING HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED</i> | COMMERCIAL VERNACULAR       | ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, JR. HIGH, OR HIGH SCHOOL |

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society

While these buildings are not necessarily protected, the Village should make every effort to preserve buildings, site, and structures of historical and architectural significance.

Table 7-2 – Inventory of Local Historical Buildings and Structures

| Location                      | Current Status              | Resource Type                |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Main Street                   | Woodville Community Library | Downtown Business            |
| Main Street                   | Lion's Den                  | Opera House/Community Center |
| Corner of Stockman & Lockwood |                             | House                        |

## Productive Agriculture Areas

Large portions of the soils in the Village of Woodville are classified as prime farmland (Map 7-5). The U.S. Department of Agriculture describes prime farmland as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, and fiber and is available for these uses. A small amount of the land in the Village limits is still being used for farmland.

Although specific agricultural data is not available for the Village of Woodville, it is available for St. Croix County. Tables 7-3, 7-4, and 7-5 compare the St. Croix County agricultural statistics between 1997 and 2007.

As shown in Table 7-3 the number of farms in St. Croix County has increased even though the land in farming has decreased. The table also shows that the average size of farms has decreased between 1997 and 2007.

Table 7-3 – St. Croix County Agricultural Statistics: Number of Farms

|                              | 1997    | 2002    | 2007    |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of Farms              | 1,520   | 1,864   | 1,808   |
| Land in Farms (acres)        | 312,076 | 310,178 | 308,275 |
| Average size of Farm (acres) | 205     | 166     | 171     |

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

Table 7-4 shows that the average value of farms has more than doubled between 1997 and 2007. During that same time period, the average value of farmland per acre has nearly tripled.

Table 7-4 – St. Croix County Agricultural Statistics: Estimated Value of Farm, Land, and Buildings

|              | 1997         | 2002         | 2007         | % change 1997-2007 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Average/farm | \$282,263.00 | \$520,418.00 | \$650,052.00 | 130.3%             |
| Average/acre | \$1,368.00   | \$3,229.00   | \$3,812.00   | 178.7%             |

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

Table 7-5 categorizes the size of farms in St. Croix County over a ten-year period. In 1997, the majority of farms were between 50 and 499 acres in size, but in 2007, the majority of farms were between 10 and 179 acres in size. Generally, the size of farms has been continually decreasing.

Table 7-5 – St. Croix County Agricultural Statistics: Farms by Size

| <b>Farms by Size</b> | <b>1997</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 to 9 acres         | 47          | 100         | 62          |
| 10 to 49 acres       | 316         | 566         | 583         |
| 50 to 179 acres      | 585         | 731         | 739         |
| 180 to 499 acres     | 460         | 348         | 312         |
| 500 to 999 acres     | 82          | 82          | 73          |
| 1,000 acres or more  | 30          | 37          | 39          |

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture



## Goals, Objectives, and Policies

### **Goal 1: Conserve/protect the natural resources in and around the Village of Woodville.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Protect the Village's surface and ground waters.
2. Prevent the fragmentation of environmental corridors.
3. Ensure there is adequate parks, trails, and open space in the Village.

#### **Policies:**

1. Limit development near wetlands – groundwater recharge areas.
2. Protect water that recharges aquifers.
3. Limit land disturbing activities near shorelines of area rivers and creeks.
4. Support the County Ordinance for monitoring, inspection, and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems.
5. Continue requiring developers to work around corridors and replant areas that are damaged during development through developer agreements.
6. Continue requiring new developments to preserve open space and areas for parks or trails.

### **Goal 2: Preserve, promote, and rehabilitate cultural resources.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Preserve the historic aspects of the community.
2. Increase the Village's appeal to new businesses and residents.
3. Encourage new development to preserve the architectural integrity of the structures.

#### **Policies:**

1. Update Wisconsin Architecture and Historic Inventory (AHI) findings and photograph homes and structures for local inventory.
2. Consider informing property owners of any historical aspect of their property and inform them of possible local and national incentives for preserving or rehabilitating their property.
3. Contact Wisconsin Historical Society for further information gathering and guidance.
4. Explore the possibility of creating historical markers within the Village.
5. Consider developing a local historic/cultural resource preservation plan.
6. Explore opportunities for grant funding which could be utilized for historic preservation initiatives.
7. Encourage businesses to utilize available low interest loan programs such as MicroLoan Fund, Downtown Façade Loan, and the Revolving Loan Fund.