APPENDIX G: AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Agricultural, natural, and cultural resources give definition to a community and strongly affect quality of life. Within the Town of Eldorado, the Eldorado State Wildlife area, a mixture of wetlands, grasslands, shrubs, woods and agricultural lands, dominates the southcentral portion of the Town. The remainder of the Town is a blend of working farms interwoven with stands of woodland and residential housing. Agriculture has a long history in the Town of Eldorado and Fond du Lac County. Although agricultural acreage and the number of farms have been declining in Fond du Lac County and the Town it continues to play an important role in the local economy. Natural features such as topographic relief, lakes, streams, wetlands and soils have significant bearing on historic and contemporary land use and development patterns. Understanding the relationship between environmental characteristics and their physical suitability to accommodate specific types of activities or development is a key ingredient in planning a community’s future land use.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Creating an inventory of existing agricultural, natural, and cultural resources is critical in providing the Town of Eldorado with information to base future decisions on. The vision, goals, policies, framing concepts and strategies for this element (Chapter 2: Framework and Implementation) were shaped with these resources, and the constraints and opportunities they provide, in mind. The following provides an inventory of these resources.

Agricultural Resources Inventory

Farming and the processing of farm products is an important source of income and employment in Fond du Lac County. Fond du Lac County is a leading agricultural county in Wisconsin and ranks as the nation’s 26th largest dairy county (2007 Census of Agriculture). Crops grown in the county are primarily used to feed the county’s 54,000 cows. In 2012, Fond du Lac County had 298 dairy herds with an annual average production of 22,500 pounds per cow. Primary crops in 2011 included corn for grain (67,500 acres), corn for silage (45,100 acres), soybeans (44,600 acres), and winter wheat (20,100 acres). Since agriculture is a necessary component of the county’s economy, the protection of farmland is critical. However, as is occurring elsewhere in rural Wisconsin, new developments are encroaching on productive farmland. This section will assess agricultural lands within the Town of Eldorado and Fond du Lac County.

Farm and Farmland Loss

Farm and farmland losses are the result of economic pressures within agriculture as well as competition for agricultural lands from residential, commercial, industrial, and other development.

The US Department of Agriculture tracks the number of farms, land in farms and the average size of farms. According to the US Department of Labor, Fond du Lac County lost 244 or 15 %

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percent of its farms between 2007 and 2012 (Table G-1). This loss resulted in a total loss of 20,192 acres of agricultural land. However, while the county has been losing farms, the average farm size in the county has been increasing. Between 2007 and 2012, the size of an average farm increased from 204 to 226 acres.

Table G-1: Agricultural Statistics, Fond du Lac County, 2007 and 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
<td>1,643</td>
<td>1,399</td>
<td>-244</td>
<td>-14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in Farms (acres)</td>
<td>335,745</td>
<td>315,553</td>
<td>-20,192</td>
<td>-6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ave. Size of Farm (acres)</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012 Census of Agriculture

As part of the Statement for Equalized Values, the Wisconsin DOR reports the total valuation for agricultural lands. Between 2009 and 2018, the value of agricultural land decreased by 13.7 percent in the Town of Eldorado (Table G-2). Part of this decrease may be attributed to loss of farmland which probably occurred over this time period, as well as the economic downturn that began in 2008. A review of data indicates that overall agricultural land values have also decreased for the county as a whole since 2009, though not as significantly as agricultural land values decreased in the Town.

Table G-2: Agricultural Equalized Values (Land), 2009 – 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T. Eldorado</td>
<td>3,003,400</td>
<td>2,811,800</td>
<td>3,042,400</td>
<td>3,064,600</td>
<td>2,113,200</td>
<td>2,493,500</td>
<td>2,515,200</td>
<td>2,489,200</td>
<td>2,524,100</td>
<td>2,593,000</td>
<td>-13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fond du Lac County (Towns)</td>
<td>57,602,500</td>
<td>55,903,700</td>
<td>52,923,700</td>
<td>52,338,700</td>
<td>49,463,200</td>
<td>48,695,500</td>
<td>49,412,300</td>
<td>49,917,000</td>
<td>50,588,600</td>
<td>51,948,700</td>
<td>-9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fond du Lac County</td>
<td>58,097,300</td>
<td>56,411,300</td>
<td>53,494,800</td>
<td>52,864,200</td>
<td>49,969,100</td>
<td>49,191,900</td>
<td>49,919,300</td>
<td>50,418,900</td>
<td>51,103,600</td>
<td>52,475,200</td>
<td>-9.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statement of Equalized Values, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, 2009 - 2018

Farmland Soils

A classification system rating the suitability of a specific area based on soil type and condition was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prime farmland are generally defined as “land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and that is available for these uses. It has the combination of soil properties, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops in an economic manner if it is treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods”. This includes the following classifications (1) All areas are prime farmland; (2) Farmland of Statewide Importance, (3) Prime farmland, if drained; (4) Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season, and (5) Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season. Soil data from the NRCS-USDA Web Soil Survey (WSS), accessed in 2017, was used to determine prime farmland. It should be noted that while Farmland of Statewide

4 Prime farmland also includes areas that are irrigated. However, within Fond du Lac County this classification does not exist and was therefore omitted from the text.
Importance is included on Map G-1 and Table G-3, it is not considered to be prime farmland. Farmland of Statewide Importance are defined as "land that does not meet the criteria for prime of unique farmland", "generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of corps when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods".

**Overall, about 84 percent (19,551 acres) of the land within the Town of Eldorado is considered prime farmland** (Map G-1, Table G-3). About three-fifths (61.1%) of these soils do not need to be drained or protected to be considered prime farmland. Farmland soils classified as “All Areas Prime Farmland” are concentrated in the eastern half of the Town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Classification</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Areas Prime Farmland</td>
<td>11,967</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmland of Statewide Importance</td>
<td>3,054</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Farmland if Drained</td>
<td>7,580</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Farmland if Drained &amp; Protected from Flooding or Not Frequently Flooded</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Farmland if Protected from Flooding or Not Frequently Flooded</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Prime Farmland</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,139</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NRCS-USDA Web Soil Survey (WSS), accessed 2017

Natural Resources Inventory

Natural Resources act as the foundation upon which communities are formed. Identifying key natural resources in the Town of Eldorado, and learning how to utilize, conserve, and/or preserve them may determine the future environmental health of the Town. This section addresses land, water, wildlife, mineral, and recreational resources in the Town of Eldorado, and aims to provide a baseline upon which the Town can use to make future decisions that may impact these resources.

Land Resources

**Soils**

Soils support the physical base for development and agriculture within the Town. Knowledge of their limitations and potential difficulties is helpful in evaluating crop productions capabilities and other land use alternatives such as residential development, utility installation and other various projects. **Three general soil associations, or groupings of individual soil types based on geographic proximity and other characteristics, are present within the Town of Eldorado.**

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These include:

- **Lomira-Virgil Association.** This soil association is found in the west part of the Town. The soils are well-drained and somewhat poorly drained, silty, moderately permeable soils. These soils are part of ground moraines underlain by calcareous loam and glacial till. The soils exist on low ridges and level uplands with depressions. Soils located to the depressions are subject to occasional flooding.

- **Kewaunee-Manawa-Poygan Association.** This association includes areas in the eastern portions of the Town. The soils consist of well drained to poorly drained, silty and clayey, moderately slowly to slowly permeable soils on glacial ground moraines, terminal moraines. The Kewaunee-Manawa-Poygan association is found in an area one to six miles wide bordering Lake Winnebago. Most of this association is used for crops.

- **Houghton-Palms Association.** These soils are generally found in the center of the town. The soils are organic soils over calcareous outwash, till or lacustrine deposits.

**Soil Suitability for On-Site Waste Disposal**

Map G-2 displays the relative suitability for development of specific locations within the Town of Eldorado based on their underlying soils. The “Soil Limitations Map for On-Site Waste Disposal” identifies suitability for on-site waste disposal options based on an evaluation of soil characteristics, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The ratings are based on soil properties that affect absorption of the effluent (depth to water table, ponding, depth to bedrock and flooding), construction (stones, bedrock interfere with installation) and maintenance of the system and public health. This map is not intended to serve as a substitute for on-site soil investigations, but rather as an indicator of reasonable expectations for soils underlying a site.

*Evaluation of the soil data indicates that almost 83 percent of the soils in the Town of Eldorado are very limited for conventional on-site individual septic systems* (Map G-2, Table G-4). Generally, areas in the eastern part of the Town are very limited, while areas in the western are a mixture of very limited and somewhat limited. Currently all portions of the Town of Eldorado are served by on-site waste disposal systems.

**Table G-4: Soil Limitations for On-Site Waste Disposal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Classification</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Limited</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Limited</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Limited</td>
<td>19,138</td>
<td>82.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Rating</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,139</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: NRCS-USDA Web Soil Survey (WSS), accessed 2017*

**Building Site Development**
The USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has evaluated soil characteristics and rated soil potential for building site development (with basements) based on wetness, shrink-swell potential, bearing strength, susceptibility to flooding, slope steepness, and frost action. The ratings range from not limited to very limited. Typically areas near flowages and in wetlands have the lowest ratings. **Over half of the area within the Town of Eldorado (53.2%, 12,311 acres) has soils that are considered very limited for building site development (with basements).** Areas that are very limited are scattered throughout the Town, but are more prevalent in the Eldorado Marsh Wildlife Area. About a third (32.7%, 7,566 acres) of the soils are somewhat limited for building site development. These soils are concentrated in the eastern portion of the Town. The remaining areas are either not limited (12.8%, 2,961 acres) or not rated (0.2%, 38 acres). Soils that are not limited are located in the western part of the Town (Map G-3, Table G-5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Limited</td>
<td>2,961</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Limited</td>
<td>7,566</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Limited</td>
<td>12,311</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Rated</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,139</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NRCS-USDA Web Soil Survey (WSS), accessed 2017

**Geology, Topography and Scenic Resources**

The Town of Eldorado’s topography is controlled by the underlying bedrock and the Valders ice sheet of the Green Bay lobe during the Wisconsin glaciations. Fond du Lac County is divided into two physiographic regions; east of the Niagara Escarpment and west of the Escarpment.

**Bedrock**

Bedrock geology for the Town of Eldorado was formed during the Phanerozoic Eon, which was divided into three eras. During the Ordovician Period, Wisconsin was submerged at least three times. Sediments eroded by the waves and washed from the lands were deposited in the sea to form sandstone and shale. Animals and plants living in the sea deposited layers and reefs of calcium carbonate which is now dolomite. At the close of the Ordovician Period and during the Silurian and Devonian periods, Wisconsin remained submerged.

The Town’s bedrock is made up of dolomite with some limestone and shale (Ordovician Formation – Sinnipee Group). **There are no areas in the Town with high bedrock.**

**Steep Slopes**

**Map G-4** indicates areas that have slopes greater than 12 percent. **Less than one percent (0.2%, 37 acres) of the Town’s total acreage has slopes in excess of 12 percent.** Very small areas of steep slopes are generally found in the western portion of the Town.

**Non-Metallic Mining Resources**
Non-metallic mineral resources included all minerals other than those mined as a source of metal. Economically important non-metallic minerals include stone, sand and gravel and clay. **There are no non-metallic mining sites within the Town of Eldorado, according to data obtained from Fond du Lac County and are based on permit data.**

**Soil Suitability for Sand and Gravel**

Soil suitability for sand and gravel is shown on Map G-4. This information can be used as guidance to where to look for probable sources based on the probability that soils in a given area contain sizeable quantities of sand and/or gravel. These materials can be used as a source for roadfill and embankments.

**There are approximately 8 acres suitable for sand and gravel. Suitable soils are located in the Eldorado Marsh near Dike Road.**

**Watersheds and Drainage**

The WDNR has divided the state into state into three major river basins; all of the Town of Eldorado falls with the Lake Michigan Basin. Each major river basin is further broken down into hydrologically based Water Management Units (WMUs). **The Town of Eldorado is part of the Upper Fox River Basin (Map G-5).**

**The Upper Fox River Basin occupies a total of 2,090 square miles and is broken down into 15 watersheds. Two watersheds: the Fox River (UF05) and the Fond du Lac River Watershed (UF03) are situated in the Town of Eldorado.**

The **Fond du Lac River Watershed** is located primarily in Fond du Lac County, but extends north into the southeast portion of Winnebago County along the western shore of Lake Winnebago. The watershed is about 245 square miles in size (156,642 acres) and contains 461 miles of streams and rivers, 775 acres of lakes and 22,373 acres of wetlands. It is dominated by a mixture of land uses, though agriculture (68%) and wetlands (14%) are the most dominant features of the landscape. It is ranked high for nonpoint source issues affecting streams and groundwater. This watershed is further divided into sub-watersheds, four of which are located in the Town: Willow Harbor-Frontal Lake Winnebago, Eldorado Marsh-Fond du Lac River, Village of Rosendale-Fond du Lac River, and Van Dyne Creek-Frontal Lake Winnebago.

The **Fox River Watershed** is located primarily in Winnebago County but extends west to Green Lake County and south to Fond du Lac County. The watershed is 76,643 acres in size and contains 236 miles of streams and rivers, 3102 acres of lakes and 13,826 acres of wetlands. The watershed is dominated by agriculture (66%) and wetlands (18%) and is ranked high for nonpoint source issues affecting streams, lakes and groundwater. It is further divided into sub-watersheds, the Eightmile Creek sub-watershed falls within the northwest portion of the Town.

Currently the WDNR along with many partners throughout the Upper Fox and Wolf River Basins are working to improve water quality within the Upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. Currently a TMDL for Total Phosphorous and Total Suspended Solids is being developed for this area.

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**Lakes and Ponds**

**Eldorado Marsh.** The Eldorado Marsh is located in the south central portion of the Town. The vast majority of unnamed water bodies within the Town are associated with the Eldorado Marsh. It consists of a rich mosaic of wetland types, small oak openings, shrubland, grasslands and agricultural land. The West Branch of the Fond du Lac River flows through the wildlife area. The original species rich sedge meadow wetlands have converted to reed canary grass and cattail vegetation because of human disturbance. There is a number of common garter snake hibernacula located on the wildlife area. There is a 3/4 mile long dike that provides excellent access for wildlife viewing in the center of the wildlife area, especially during spring and fall migration.8

**Rivers and Streams**

There is one named river and one named creek within the Town of Eldorado and several unnamed creeks (Map G-5).9

- **West Branch Fond du Lac River** (Fond du Lac River Watershed) begins in northwest Fond du Lac County and flows generally southeast to its confluence with the East Branch. The West Branch has four distinct segments. The first segment is the upper headwater segment, including all its tributaries upstream from Eldorado Marsh. The second segment is contained within Eldorado Marsh. The third segment is downstream from Eldorado Marsh to the City of Fond du Lac, while the fourth segment is in the City of Fond du Lac.

  The first two river segments are within the Town boundary. The segment upstream from Eldorado Marsh has a relatively low gradient. There are numerous small wetland complexes and areas of drained wetlands. Many of the unnamed tributaries and drainageways have been ditched or straightened. There are areas of very intensive farming, including the state’s largest concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO), but there are also large areas of farmland which have been set aside as part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The seemingly large CRP lands in the sub-watershed of this segment act as buffers to the stream in many areas. Water quality is good enough to allow wild rice to be present in the stream channel at least one location upstream from Eldorado Marsh (WDNR SCR-Files, 1996). All the CRP land also reduces the amount of sediment and nutrients that would otherwise find their way into Eldorado Marsh. There is a dam on the river at the Community of Eldorado. Ownership of the dam is unclear according to DNR records. As a result, it is unknown how the dam is being managed or ought to be managed.

  The Eldorado Marsh segment of the river is within the boundaries of the Eldorado State Wildlife Area. There is a water control structure that is used to manipulate water levels and control flow out of the marsh. The marsh acts as a sediment and nutrient sink, where much of the incoming sediment is deposited.

- **Van Dyne Creek** (Fond du Lac River Watershed) is a turbid, hard water, intermittent stream except for the lower one-half mile which is a small bayou off of Lake Winnebago.

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8 WDNR, [https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/eldorado.html](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/WildlifeAreas/eldorado.html)
Floodplains

Areas susceptible to flooding are considered unsuitable for development due to potential health risks and property damage. Floodplain information for Fond du Lac County was certified by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2012.

Table G-6 shows the acres and percent of floodplains and floodplains that are included with wetlands. Overall 15.5 percent (3,584) of the Town’s acres are in floodplains. While another 12.6 percent include floodplains that are also wetlands. Floodplains are mostly associated with the Eldorado Marsh and its tributaries (Map G-5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains (100 Year)</td>
<td>3,584</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands (=&gt; 5 Acres)</td>
<td>3,790</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains &amp; Wetlands Combined</td>
<td>2,909</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Area of Town</td>
<td>23,139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WDNR, 2015; FEMA, 2017

Fond du Lac County has adopted a Floodplain Zoning Ordinance.10 This ordinance regulates all areas that would be covered by a hundred year flood event. It requires certain land use controls in designated flood hazard areas, thus making residents eligible to participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Administration’s Flood Insurance Program. This program requires all structures located in the designated flood hazard area be insured by a flood insurance policy if they are mortgaged by a federally insured bank.

Wetlands

Wetlands act as a natural filtering system for nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrates and serve as a natural buffer protecting shorelines and stream banks. Wetlands are also essential in providing wildlife habitat, control, and groundwater recharge. Consequently, local, state, and federal regulations have been enacted that place limitations on the development and use of wetlands and shorelands.

Fond du Lac County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 44, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Section 44-81, Shoreland-Wetland District 2, regulates wetlands within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of navigable lakes, ponds or flowages and within 300 feet of the ordinary high watermark of navigable rivers or streams or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater. Fond du Lac County’s ordinance regulates wetlands within the Town. The Army Corps of Engineers has authority over the placement of fill materials in virtually all wetlands two acres or larger adjacent to navigable waterways. The U.S. Department of Agriculture incorporates wetland preservation criteria into its crop price support programs. Prior to placing fill or altering wetland resources, the appropriate agencies must be contacted for authorization.

10 Chapter 28 Article II.
The wetlands shown on Map G-5 are based on the Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory (WWI) Map. The WWI maps show graphic representations of the type, size and locations of wetlands in Wisconsin. They have been prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery in conjunction with soils surveys, topographic maps, previous wetland inventories and field work. Therefore it should be noted that using remotely sensed information as a primary data source places limitations on the information. As a result, this information should be used as a guide for planning purposes only. Wetland information depicted within this report was obtained from the WDNR in 2015.

Small wetlands with the Town of Eldorado are somewhat scattered, but larger wetland complexes are associated with the Eldorado Marsh. Overall, approximately 16 percent (16.4%) of the Towns' total acreage are classified as wetlands (Table G-5). Additional acreage are in combination with floodplain areas, see above.

**Groundwater**

An aquifer is a rock or soil layer capable of storing, transmitting and producing potable water for human consumption. In Fond du Lac County there are several aquifers; the sandstone aquifer is the source of the most potable water and is used by many of the major cities within Fond du Lac County. The Platteville-galena aquifer is composed primarily of dolomite and provides adequate water to private wells. The Silurian or Niagara dolomite aquifer is a source of potable water and is in high demand because of quantity and quality and is moderately susceptible to contamination. Sand and gravel aquifer consists of permeable sediments of unconsolidated glacial deposits and is the most susceptible to contamination.11

Groundwater aquifers within Fond du Lac County are recharged mostly by the percolation of precipitation through the unsaturated zone to the water table. The recharge area for the Fond du Lac area extends westward from the Niagara Escarpment to the groundwater divide in the western and southwestern parts of the county.12

Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility. The south central area of the Town associated with the Eldorado Marsh (and continuing west) is most susceptible to groundwater contamination (Map G-6). Areas with low to moderate susceptibility occur in the east and Town. In March, 2010 the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey University of Wisconsin-Extension completed a project to provide baseline groundwater information for the Town.13

The following information was obtained from well samples collected in Fond du Lac County from over 1,500 private wells between 1988 and 2008. Samples were tested for coliform bacteria, nitrate-nitrogen, triazine, arsenic, chloride, total hardness, sulfate, iron, and manganese. The following results were found in the Town of Eldorado:

- **Coliform Bacteria:** Thirteen (13) percent (7 out of 53) of the wells in the Town tested positive for coliform bacteria. The presence of coliform bacteria is an indicator of

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contamination by fecal coliform and other pathogenic (waterborne disease-causing) organisms.

- **Nitrate-Nitrogen:** Elevated nitrate levels in groundwater commonly result from the use of agricultural and lawn fertilizers, animal waste/bio-solid application to fields or septic systems. Concentrations less than 10 mg/L of nitrate-nitrogen meet US EPA safe drinking water standards for this contaminant. Four (4) percent (2 out of 53) samples in the Town that exceeded 10 mg/L.¹⁴

- **Triazine:** Triazine is a pesticide. A total of 4 wells in the Town showed elevated levels (0.1 to 0.3 parts per billion all within the 0.3 ppb standard) of Triazine.

- **Arsenic:** Arsenic is a naturally occurring carcinogen. The drinking water standard for arsenic is 10 mg/L or 10 parts per billion. One sample exceeded the drinking water standard and in two other samples arsenic was detected but was below the safe drinking water standard.

- **Chloride:** Chloride in groundwater is naturally less than 10 mg/L, though higher concentrations can be caused by geologic conditions. Typically, higher concentrations (25 mg/L and above) indicate contamination by septic systems, road salt, fertilizers, animal waste or other wastes. Slightly more than half the wells tested in the Town were above 25 mg/L.

- **Hardness:** There are no drinking water standards for hardness, though the ideal range for total hardness is typically between 150 and 200 mg/L or ppm of hardness as CaCO₃. A majority of the wells exceeded 200 mg/L with five wells greater than 600 mg/L.

- **Sulfate:** Sulfate is naturally occurring in groundwater. There is a secondary drinking water standard of 250 mg/L of sulfate. Excessive levels of sulfate can cause a temporary laxative effect in some people. Elevated sulfate may also be a concern for livestock; decreased milk production has been associated with high levels of sulfate provided to dairy cows. No wells exceeded the secondary standard of 250 mg/L.

- **Iron:** Iron is a naturally occurring mineral that is commonly found in groundwater. While there are no known health effects caused by drinking water that contains iron, concentrations greater than 0.3 mg/L are associated with aesthetic problems relating to taste, odor and color. Four wells tested exceeded 0.3 mg/L, one exceeded 3.0 mg/L.

- **Manganese:** Manganese is naturally occurring. While there is no primary drinking water standard for manganese, there is a health advisory level of 0.3 mg/L, concentrations exceeding this level should not be consumed. There is a secondary drinking water standard for manganese in water which is set at 0.05 mg/L. One well tested exceeded 0.05 mg/L for Manganese. No wells tested exceeded 0.3 mg/L.

**Depth to Groundwater.** Groundwater depth can impact building foundations, septic systems and other factors. Areas of high groundwater are shown on Map G-4. Areas of high groundwater are found throughout the Town. In approximately 52 percent (11,943.3 acres) of the Town, the depth to groundwater is less than two feet.

¹⁴ Results based on data from 1988 to 2007.
Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife Resources

Ecological landscapes are areas that differ from each other in ecological attributes and management opportunities. They have unique combinations of physical and biological characteristics, such as climate, geology, soils, water and vegetation. Levels of biological productively, habitat suitability, and the presences of rare species and natural communities also differ. The Town of Eldorado falls entirely within the Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscape.15

- Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscape covers the bulk of the non-coastal area in southeast Wisconsin and totals approximately 4.9 million acres (13.8% of the land area of the state of Wisconsin). This landscape is characterized by gently rolling to flat topography with clay or silt loam textured soils on glacial till plains and moraines. The Kettle Interlobate Moraine and Horicon Marsh are part of this ecological landscape.

The ecological landscape is home to a diverse aquatic and animal population. Wetlands, marshes, open wet meadows, streams, rivers and lakes provide habitat for muskrat, mink, beaver, otter, sandhill crane and sedge wren. Other habitats found within the Town include woodlands and farmland where soils are mostly a rich silt-loam.

The tension zone is a wide corridor running from northwestern to southeastern Wisconsin that marks the pre-settlement dividing line between northern and southern native plant species. The tension zone has characteristics of both northern and southern Wisconsin climates, and therefore, species from both areas. The Town of Eldorado lies within this tension zone.

Woodlands

Originally, deciduous forests, including sugar maple, basswood and oak (red, white, black and burl), covered the eastern and western parts of Fond du Lac County.16 Prairie and brush made up the areas south of Lake Winnebago. Today, woodlands are scattered throughout the Town, but are mainly associated with waterways. Woodlands should be considered as prime wildlife habitat areas.

Forests and woodlands can be classified into one of two categories: general (unplanted) woodlands and planted woodlands. General woodlands are naturally occurring forests and

hedgerows. Planted woodlands are tree plantations in which trees are found in rows. These areas include orchards, timber tracts, Christmas tree plantations and other general uses. **There are approximately 151 acres of planted woodlands and 1,793 acres of general woodlands in the Town of Eldorado** (Table G-6, Map G-7). In total this makes up approximately 8 percent of the land cover in the Town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planted Woodlands</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Woodlands</td>
<td>1,793</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Woodlands</td>
<td>1,945</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Acres</td>
<td>23,128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: ECWRPC Land Use, 2018*

**Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species**

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in the Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Fisheries in the Department of Commerce (National Marine Fisheries Service – NMFS) share responsibility for administration of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The purpose of the ESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The FWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms, while the NMFS are mainly responsible for marine wildlife such as whales and anadromous fish such as salmon.

Under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. “Endangered” means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. “Threatened” means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. Before a plant or animal species can obtain the protection of the ESA, it has to be added to the federal lists of threatened and endangered plants and wildlife. The List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (50 CFR 17.11) and the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants (50 CFR 17.12) contain the names of all species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects, plants and other creatures that have been determined by the FWS and NOAA - Fisheries (for most marine life) to be in greatest need of federal protection.

Species are listed as endangered or threatened based solely on their biological status and threats to their existence. FWS considered five factors when evaluating a species (1) damage to, or destruction of, a species habitat; (2) overutilization of the species for commercial, recreational, scientific or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) inadequacy of existing protection; and (5) other natural or manmade factors that affect the continued existence of the species.

Candidate species are plants and animals for which the FWS has sufficient information on their biological status along with the threats they face, to propose them as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. However, development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other, higher priority listing activities. Candidate species receive no legal protection. However, the FWS encourages concerned parties to form partnerships to conserve

these species, because they are species that may warrant protection in the future under the ESA.

The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is part of an international network of inventory programs.\(^18\),\(^19\) The program is responsible for maintaining data on the locations and status of rare species, natural communities and natural features throughout the state. Species and natural communities tracked by the Wisconsin NHI Program can be found on the NHI Working List. Due to the vulnerability of rare species to collection and destruction, NHI data detailing exact locations is exempt from the Wisconsin Open Records Law. NHI’s working list is open to the general public at the town level. Table G-8 provides Wisconsin and federal status of species within the Town of Eldorado.

**The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identifies three (3) federally listed species for Fond du Lac County**\(^20\) (Table G-7), while the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory identifies by Town, six (6) bird, one (1) Community one (1) plant and one (1) Other (Table G-8).

**Table G-7: Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, Fond du Lac County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grus Americanus</td>
<td>Whooping Crane</td>
<td><strong>Non-essential experimental population</strong></td>
<td>Open wetlands and lakeshores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombus affinis</td>
<td>Rusty Patched bumble bee</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Grasslands with flowering plants from April through October. Underground and abandoned rodent cavities or clumps of grasses above ground as nesting sites, and undisturbed soil for hibernating queens to overwinter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myotis Septentrionalis</td>
<td>Northern Lone-Eared Bat</td>
<td>Threatened</td>
<td>Live and dead tree crevices, mines and caves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


---


\(^{19}\) The DNR Aquatic Terrestrial Resource Inventory (ATRI database), [http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/ss/SS1000.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/ss/SS1000.pdf) was reviewed but not utilized since the database contains information from the WNHI program. The WNHI program houses the most complete database on the locations and status of rare species, natural communities, and natural features in Wisconsin. Data provided by the WNHI are not based on a comprehensive rare species inventory of the state. The WNHI makes no guarantee or warranty concerning the accuracy or completeness of information contained in the database and does not necessarily endorse any interpretation or products derived from the data.

### Table G-8: WI Natural Heritage Inventory Working List for the Town of Eldorado

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>WI Status</th>
<th>Federal Status</th>
<th>Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ammodramus henslowii</td>
<td>Henslow’s Sparrow</td>
<td>THR</td>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardea alba</td>
<td>Great Egret</td>
<td>THR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botaurus lentiginosus</td>
<td>American Bittern</td>
<td>SC/M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergent marsh</td>
<td>Emergent Marsh</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Bird Concentration Site</td>
<td>Migratory Bird Concentration Site</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nycticorax nycticorax</td>
<td>Black-crowned Night-Heron</td>
<td>SC/M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiceps grisegena</td>
<td>Red-necked Grebe</td>
<td>END</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rallus elegans</td>
<td>King Rail</td>
<td>SC/M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalictrum revolutum</td>
<td>Waxleaf Meadowrue</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WDNR Natural Heritage Inventory.

### Exotic and Invasive Species

Non-native aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals, commonly referred to as exotic species, have been recognized in recent years as a major threat to the integrity of native habitats and the species that utilize those habitats. Some of these exotic species include purple loosestrife, buckhorn, garlic mustard, multi-colored Asian lady beetles, Eurasian water milfoil, and gypsy moths. They displace native species, disrupt ecosystems, and affect citizens’ livelihoods and quality of life. The WDNR requires that any person seeking to bring any non-native fish or wild animal into the state must first obtain a permit as required under the Wisconsin Statutes 29.736 and 29.745.

### Parks, Open Space and Recreational Resources

Public open space such as parks and parkways are important to the quality of life within a community. These lands serve many purposes including outdoor recreation and education; buffers between different land uses; flood and stormwater management; habitat preservation; air and surface water quality improvements; protection of groundwater recharge areas; aesthetics; and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

### WDNR and Public Lands

Since 1876, the State of Wisconsin has been acquiring land to meet conservation and recreational needs. Public lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provide many opportunities and public places to hunt, fish, hike, canoe, or watch or photograph wildlife.

State Fishery Areas (SFAs) protect important waterways in Wisconsin by providing a natural buffer from agricultural practices and urban runoff. SFAs preserve and manage the headwaters of springs or streams which serve as the biological base for fish and other aquatic life. SFAs increase access the availability of public access to navigable streams throughout the state. **There are no SFAs in the Town of Eldorado.**

State natural areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. They are
valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity and for providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the last refuges for rare plants and animals. **There are no SNAs in the Town.**

State parks and forests provide places for outdoor recreation and for learning about nature and conservation. **There are two WDNR managed lands in the Town of Eldorado; the Eldorado Wildlife Area (see above) and the Mascoutin Valley State Trail (Map G-7).**

**Environmental Corridors**

Environmental corridors are continuous systems of open space created by the natural linkages of environmentally sensitive lands such as woodlands, wetlands, and habitat areas. They provide important routes of travel for a variety of wildlife and bird species. Protecting these corridors from development protects habitat and keeps nonpoint source pollution to a minimum, thus ensuring that high quality groundwater and surface water is maintained and habitat is not impaired.

**Important environmental corridors within the Town of Eldorado are associated with the river and creek corridors mentioned above and the Mascoutin Valley State Trail and the Eldorado Marsh.** These areas should be protected from development by implementing buffer strips where land disturbing activities are limited within the established buffer area.

**Waste and Pollution**

**Solid and Hazardous Waste Sites**

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Information Management System (SHWIMS) provides access to information on sites, and facilities operating at sites that are regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ (WDNR) Waste Management program. Activities that occur at facilities include landfill operation, waste transportation, hazardous waste generation, wood burning, waste processing, sharps collection and many more. A search of the database indicates that there are ten facilities licensed under this program within the Town of Eldorado (Table G-9). **Four of these facilities (highlighted) are listed as solid waste landfills/disposal sites (Map G-4):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>FID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>Futureworks Inc</td>
<td>W8782 Hwy 23</td>
<td>420124870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>International Minerals &amp; Chemical Corp</td>
<td>CTH C</td>
<td>420103420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>Mike Rabe Trucking Inc</td>
<td>N8971 CTH C</td>
<td>999904840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>Roberts Tkc Inc</td>
<td>N9250 STH 26</td>
<td>420116400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>Sth 141</td>
<td>STH 141</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Donald Rickert Farm</td>
<td>CTH N &amp; Town Hall Rd</td>
<td>420037420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>Eldorado Farm Center-Eldorado</td>
<td>N7392 CTH C</td>
<td>420141810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Eldorado Tn</td>
<td>CTH N</td>
<td>420016300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>L H GYR EXCAVATING</td>
<td>JAHN RD</td>
<td>420037090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>TERRY WITHCHOW PROPERTY</td>
<td>BLEWETT RD</td>
<td>420034010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table G-9: Waste Facilities

Source: WDNR SHWIMS, [https://dnr.wi.gov/sotw/BasicSearchAction.do](https://dnr.wi.gov/sotw/BasicSearchAction.do)

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21 [http://dnr.wi.gov/sotw/SetUpBasicSearchForm.do](http://dnr.wi.gov/sotw/SetUpBasicSearchForm.do)
The solid waste landfills/disposal sites should be indicated on the future land use map. When considering redevelopment of these sites, it is important to carefully evaluate whether the activity is compatible with public health and safety.  

Air Quality

Air quality, especially good air quality, is often taken for granted. Sound local and regional planning can minimize negative impacts to the air. Development patterns can impact automobile use, which in turn impacts air quality. Emissions from certain industries can also impact air quality. As more rural residential development occurs, there are increased conflicts between non-farm residents and certain agricultural operations that emit dust and odors. Noise can also be a factor impacting environmental quality.

The Clean Air Act, which was last amended in 1990, requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. Two standards are set; primary and secondary. Primary standard limits are set to protect public health, while secondary standards are set to protect public welfare (protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation and buildings). National Ambient Air Quality Standards are set for six principal pollutants; carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, ozone and sulfur dioxide.

There is an ozone air quality monitoring site located at N3996 Kelly Road in the Town of Byron. The site is located at the edge of a farm field. The primary and secondary 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone is 0.070 ppm and the 2008 standard is 0.075 ppm. The 8-hour ozone design values (ppb) were not exceeded in Fond du Lac County between 2001 and 2017.

Particulate matter (PM) is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets is not monitored in Fond du Lac County.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources, like natural resources are valuable assets which should be preserved. These resources define a community’s unique character and heritage. Included in this section is an inventory of historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, archeological sites and districts.

State and National Register of Historic Places

The Wisconsin Historical Society’s Division of Historical Preservation (DHP) is a clearing house for information related to the state’s cultural resources including buildings and archaeological sites. A primary responsibility of the DHP is to administer the State and National Register of Historic Places programs. The National Register is the official national list of historic properties.
in the United States that are worthy of preservation. The program is maintained by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The State Register is Wisconsin’s official listing of state properties determined to be significant to Wisconsin’s heritage. The inventory is maintained by the DHP. Both listings include sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts that are significant in national, state, or local history. Sites are based on the architectural, archaeological, cultural, or engineering significance. (For ease of discussion, “National Register” is used to refer to both programs. In Wisconsin, if a property is listed on one then it is typically listed on the other. There are no properties within the Town of Eldorado listed on the National Register.27

The National Register is not a static inventory. Properties are constantly being added, and, less frequently, removed. It is, therefore, important to access the most updated version of the National Register properties.

Architecture and History Inventory (AHI)

In order to determine those sites that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register, the DHP frequently funds historical, architectural, and archaeological surveys of municipalities and counties within the state. Surveys are also conducted in conjunction with other activities such as highway construction projects. A search of the DHP’s online Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) reveals a total of 42 sites listed for the Town of Eldorado.

Inclusion in this inventory conveys no special status, rights, restrictions, or benefits to owners of these properties. It simply means that some type of information on these properties exists in the DHP’s collections. AHI is primarily used as a research and planning tool. Like the National Register, this is not a static inventory. Properties are constantly being updated.

Archaeological Sites Inventory

An inventory similar to the AHI exists for known archaeological sites across the state: the Archaeological Sites Inventory (ASI). Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological sites, information as to their whereabouts is not currently made available online. This information is distributed only on a need-to-know basis. Archaeological sites are added to ASI as they are discovered; discovery is a continual process.

Wisconsin Historical Markers

Wisconsin historical markers identify, commemorate and honor important people, places, and events that have contributed to the state’s rich heritage. The Wisconsin Historical Markers Program is a vital education tool, informing people about the most significant aspects of Wisconsin’s past. The Society’s Division of Historic Preservation administers the Wisconsin Historic Markers Program. Applications are required for all official State of Wisconsin historical markers and plaques. There are no historical markers located in the Town of Eldorado.28

Museums/Other Historic Resources

Museums protect valuable historic resources for community enjoyment. Residents are welcome to learn from the exhibits and amenities they have to offer. **There are no museums in the Town of Eldorado.**

Locally Significant Historic Places

Locally significant historic places are historic structures, historic sites or historic districts which have a distinctive historic, architectural or cultural significance to a community. **Two locally significant historic places have been identified: Peniel Chapel and Generations Lanes.**

The Peniel Chapel is located at W9644 Zoar Road (CTH FF) and was built in 1856. It does not have regular Sunday worship but has a number of scheduled events coming up this summer. The scheduled events involve community music as well as historical events and the public is invited to attend. In August, the chapel will be hosting the 97 annual Gymanfa Ganu which is a Welsh/English song gathering. This church was one of five rural churches of the Oshkosh Welsh Settlement. Peniel Chapel and Bethesda Church are the only two remaining churches. Bethesda Church is the only church with an active congregation. The early Welsh settlers came to the rural towns of Eldorado and Rosendale as well as Nekimi in Winnebago County. The Peniel Welsh Chapel Association, Inc. owns and maintains the building. They are actively pursuing efforts to renovate the building and to keep the historic structure, Welsh Heritage and Christian message for generations to come. Historical photos of past Gymanfa Ganu events and the early Peniel and Zoar churches are hanging in Peniel.

The building housing Generation Lanes was originally built in the 1920’s as a dance hall with indoor basketball courts. The building has been in the Brenner family and operated as a bowling alley since 1952.

Local Historic Preservation Commissions and Societies

*The Eldorado Community Historical Organization (ECHO) was formed under the 501c3 of the Eldorado Lions.* This historical society meets 8 to 9 time per year at the community center in Eldorado. ECHO does not have a home of its own. Instead, donated historical items are either stored in the loft of the new fireman’s building or in file cabinets at the community center.

Local History

Eldorado was named, in all probability, by John O. Henning, editor of the first paper in Fond du Lac County. The first settlers were Moses S. Barnett, Theodore R, Sheldon, William Hall, and others, who located within its borders in early 1846.

An act approved March 11, 1848, established the town of Eldorado and included what is now Eldorado and Friendship. The first town meeting was held in April, 1848, at the house of Cyrus Parks, at which M. S. Barnett was chosen Chairman, and James Cowhan, Town Clerk. Another

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29Town of Eldorado Comprehensive Plan, adopted March, 2010 and Eldorado Township, History of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin; Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1880.
act, passed February 1, 1849, divided the original town into the present towns of Eldorado and Friendship.

At one time there were 7 churches in the Town; only two are still open for regular services. The two churches are Salem United Methodist Church on CTH I (and cemetery) and St. Peters Lutheran Church on Town Hall Road. Cemeteries can still be found near the location of where many of the remaining five churches once stood or are no longer operating. The remaining churches and cemeteries include: the German Methodist Church in Section 15 (church is gone, but Methodist Episcopal Cemetery still exists), St. Paul’s Lutheran CTH I (church is gone, but St. Paul’s Lutheran Cemetery still exists), St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Section 18 (no Sunday services, St. Mary’s Cemetery still exists), Eldorado Congregational Church (originally located in the northern part of the unincorporated community of Eldorado, but was moved to the grounds of the Galloway House Village and Museum in Fond du Lac), and Peniel Chapel, located in the far northwestern part of the Town on Zoar Road. One additional cemetery, Eldorado cemetery is located on CTH N next to St. Mary’s Catholic cemetery.

The first school was built in November of 1848, but it wasn’t until the fall of 1849, that a teacher was installed. Other schools, some of which could be standing and having different uses include the Eldorado Village School (located in the north part of the unincorporated community of Eldorado), the Cowham School (located north of CTH C in Section 6), the Box Elder Line School (corner of CTH N and C, in Section 20), the Maple Grove School (Nitschke Road in Section 14), the Ridge Road School (corner of CTH I and Church Road, Section 26), High Ridge School (Ridge Road, Section 10).

Farming has been and continues to play an important role in the local economy of the Town of Eldorado.

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The goals, objectives, policies and recommendations for the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural element are provided in Chapter 9: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources.

**POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

Policies and programs related to the Issues and Opportunities element can be found in Appendix L.
Map G - 1
Town of Eldorado
Prime Farmland

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Not prime farmland

Source:
Base data Fond du Lac County 2018.

PREPARED MAY 2019 BY:

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DRAFT
Map G - 3
Town of Eldorado
Soil Limitations For Building Development

Source:
Base data provided by Fond du Lac County 2018.
Soil data provided by NRCS-USDA Web Soil Survey (WSS), accessed 2017.

PREPARED MAY 2019 BY:

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Map G - 5
Town of Eldorado
Environmental - Water

Source:
Base Data Fond du Lac County 2018.
Wetland Data WDNR 2015.
Floodplain Data FEMA 2017.
Watershed Data provided USDA - NRCS 2017.

PREPARED MAY 2019 BY:
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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