

Dane County Comprehensive Plan – Cultural Resources



Historic and Archaeological Resources

Goals



1. Encourage permanent protection, interpretation and maintenance for all identified Dane County archaeological sites of significance.

- A. Include archaeological significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under all county real estate programs.
- B. Plan for the greatest protection and appreciation of the resources of each publicly accessible property that contains archaeological sites.
- C. Provide county and state assistance to local governments to identify, register and document archaeological resources and sponsor nomination of eligible resources to the National Register of Historic Places.
- D. Require the preservation of Indian Mounds and other archaeological resources on both public and private lands.

2. Protect, preserve and restore buildings, structures, sites, landscapes, natural features and districts which represent or reflect elements of Dane County's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history.

- A. Encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and districts in Dane County whenever specific sites
- B. Encourage preservation of significant, historic farm structures.
- C. Proactively designate historic districts and structures, and seek to incorporate the following principles into redevelopment of historic sites:
 - (1) Protect historic and architectural integrity;
 - (2) Promote adaptive reuse of historic structures that is consistent with local land use plans, and;
 - (3) Respect property rights of private landowners with historic resources on their lands.
- D. Develop a stronger institutional framework for historic preservation, and improve the tools available for the county to use in protecting significant resources.
- E. Preserve the historic visual character of statedesignated rustic roads.

3. Increase public awareness and appreciation of historic and archaeological resources.

- A. Mobilize public opinion to place a higher value on historic resources.
- B. Promote the use of historic resources for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people.
- C. Conduct local meetings to emphasize local historic sites.
- D. Utilize school curricula to emphasize and educate students about local historic sites.
- E. Interpret the significance of historic and archaeological sites to educate visitors about their significance, add greater interest, and preserve area history.

4. Identify, record and evaluate archaeological, historic and cultural resources and sites.

- A. Document, through photography and collection of archival information, all archaeological and historic sites in Dane County before their demolition, protection or restoration.
- B. Create a publicly accessible register of all historic and archaeological places countywide in both online and published forms. Specific locations for archaeological resources will not be provided, except where such resources are, or will be protected from vandalism. Sites on private property will only be listed with the express consent of the owner.
- C. Utilize long-term residents in identifying and educating about historic and cultural sites.
- D. Utilize Native American tribal leaders in identifying and educating about archaeological sites

What's not there?

- A. Inclusion of non-tangible elements as a form of cultural resource.
- B. Recommendations for protection of arts, folk traditions, cultural institutions, oral histories, local traditions, or endemic trades and industry.
- C. Guidelines for the identification and protection of spaces that house such institutions, even if the building or space itself is not historically or architecturally significant.

Policies and Programs



1. Work with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the National Park Service to designate Dane County as a Certified Local Government for historic preservation.

- A. Establish a Dane County Historic Preservation Commission that includes Dane County residents with expertise in history, architectural history, architecture, and archaeology, to oversee the Historic Preservation program.
- B. Develop a source of funding and permanent staffing resources to effectively administer a county historic preservation program.
- C. Establish a system of designation priorities and a coordinated preservation program. Working with the Dane County Historic Preservation Commission, the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, local historical societies, town government and the Wisconsin Historical Society, identify and map properties and districts for inclusion in historic preservation programs.
- D. Provide county, state, local and federal assistance to identify, register and document architectural resources and sponsor nomination of eligible resources to the National Register of Historic Places.
- E. Conduct periodic surveys of the county on an ongoing basis to update designated lists of historically significant properties.
- F. Amend the county historic and archaeological overlay zoning district, or develop and adopt a new ordinance, to meet Wisconsin Historical Society standards for historic preservation.

2. Explore the availability and use of grant money to rehabilitate, restore or relocate historic structures threatened by demolition or disrepair.

- A. Review existing state and federal tax credits, and other resources, for historic structure rehabilitation and analyze applicability and effectiveness for Dane County historic resources.
- B. Explore the creation of new incentives, such as historic preservation Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts, grants, and revolving loan funds or other tools, to encourage historic preservation.
- C. Report results of study to the county board and the proposed Dane County Historic Preservation Commission.

3. Amend county zoning and land division ordinances to promote better protection, adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of historic resources. (See Chapter 8: Land Use.)

4. Implement and enhance the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan to acquire and manage lands of historic or archaeological significance. Include historic, cultural and archaeological significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under relevant county real estate programs, including parks, public facilities, PDR and TDR programs. (See Land Resources Policies 4 and 5.)

5. Work with [Local Partners] to develop and implement an ongoing public participation and education program related to historic and archaeological resources.

- A. Maximize public involvement throughout historic preservation program design, planning, property and district designation and implementation.
- B. Disseminate information about the state and federal tax credits for historic buildings and rehabilitation.
- C. Seek grant funding to hire a temporary project coordinator to establish the program and develop recommendations for ongoing funding and support.
- D. Solicit input and participation from and maintain contacts with interested groups such as local governments, local historical societies, long-term stakeholders, schools and Native American tribal leaders.
- E. Develop collaborative projects, such as producing or updating interpretive guides to, or updating Wisconsin Historical Society information about, historic resources in Dane County.
- F. Build on and expand use of existing resources, such as the Wisconsin Historical Society's online Architecture and History Inventory (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi>).
- G. Distribute map illustrating Dane County historic sites, districts and resources that can be shown to the public.