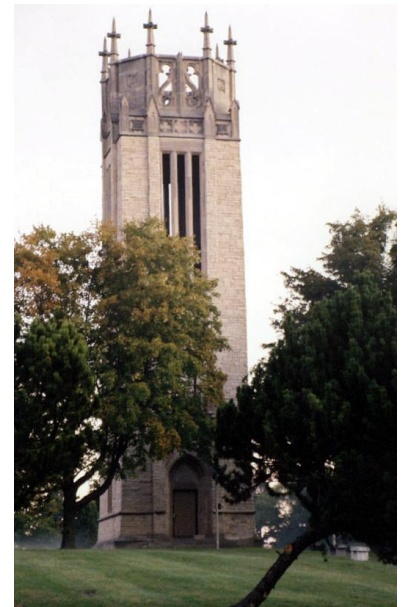


ELEMENT 5:

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL, & CULTURAL RESOURCES

I. Element Overview

The City of Monona has a diverse wealth of natural and cultural resources. Monona is a fully urbanized community, and therefore does not have significant agricultural land and resources. The City is set directly on the eastern shores of Lake Monona and is surrounded by the Monona Wetlands in its southern portions. The Yahara River runs through portions of the community as well. The community has worked diligently to create and maintain a city park system that preserves natural and cultural resources. First settled by Native Americans, the City still preserves burial mounds from these early settlers. Additionally, the city contains many historic buildings and structures, including numerous international style homes. Monona strives for the preservation of these natural and cultural resources and has adopted a variety of plans and policies to preserve them.



II. Background Information, Data, and Analysis

A. Agricultural Resources

The City of Monona was a farming community until the 1960s. Until this decade, much of the city's land was farmland or was developed with summer homes and some permanent homes and businesses. Before the 1960s, farms lined what is now Monona Drive. These farms were sold and subdivided, with most of the frontage of Monona Drive being used commercially and the rest being developed residentially. During the 1960s, the population of Monona increased significantly, as it was the fastest growing community in Wisconsin. Because of the community's rapid growth, there was an increased demand for homes, services, and businesses. Annexation of land continued until 1980 when there simply was no more land to annex, because the City of Madison, wetlands, and Lake Monona surrounded the City of Monona.

Because no farmland currently exists within Monona, there are no major agricultural resources within the community.

B. Natural Resources

Despite a lack of agricultural resources, Monona does contain a strong base of natural resources. Its natural resources include soils, groundwater, forests, stream corridors, environmentally sensitive areas, surface water, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and parks. A description of these and other items and their significance to the community are presented below.

1. Soils

A variety of soils exists in Monona. Map Appendix I lists the soil types in Monona and their location. For more information on Monona's soils, see the *Dane County Soil Map*. There are no active pits or quarries in the city nor is there any significant potential for them.

2. Groundwater

The City of Monona's water source is groundwater drawn from deep wells. Monona currently has three wells. The City of Monona's water is extracted from the Mt. Simon and Eau Claire aquifers. Groundwater is replenished from naturally occurring precipitation. Table A displays the water sources in Monona.

TABLE A: Monona's Water Sources <i>Source: City of Monona Water Quality Report, Monona Water Utility, 2000</i>				
Source ID	Unique Well Number	Source	Depth in feet	Location
1	BF541	Groundwater	305	Nichols & Schluter
2	BF542	Groundwater	500	Midland & Sylvan
3	HJ185	Groundwater	775	South Towne

(For additional information on the quality of Monona's drinking water, please contact the City of Monona for Monona's Water Utility's Annual Quality Water Report. For additional information on the City's water utility, see the Utilities, Community Facilities and Services Element.)

3. Forests

Maintaining its abundance of trees is an integral part of the City of Monona's dedication to natural resources. The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Monona as a *Tree City USA* from 1990 to 2003, though tree preservation has been extremely important to Monona residents since before the 1960s. In the *2000 Master Plan Survey* of Monona's residents, many respondents stated that tree preservation was important to the community. Tree preservation is evident throughout the City on private property, along city streets, and throughout the Monona City park system. Most of the parks in the system have a large collection of trees. In 1995, the City of Monona established Monona Woodland Park, containing seventeen acres of woodland.

Monona's current tree stock is beginning to mature. The City is planning to continue its monitoring of the health and age of the city's tree stock.



4. Stream Corridors

The Yahara River runs south through the City of Monona from Lake Monona to Upper Mud Lake toward Lake Waubesa. It is approximately 800 feet at its widest point and 100 feet at its narrowest point. It provides recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, and scenic views from the Monona shoreline.

Any future development or redevelopment along this stream corridor should be consistent with the *Broadway Corridor Plan*.

5. Environmental Corridors and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Many environmental corridors and environmentally sensitive areas exist in Monona. The Dane County Regional Planning Commission (DCRPC) defines environmental corridors as “continuous systems of open space in urban and urbanizing areas, that include environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use.” Many classifications are included in the definition of environmental corridors, such as: lakes; ponds; streams; wetlands; floodplains; shoreland buffer strips; steep slopes; woodlands; parks; unique vegetation or geology; and unique soils.

The DCRPC defines environmentally sensitive areas as: “wetlands; floodplains; woodlands; steep slopes; and other areas that would impair surface or groundwater quality if disturbed or developed.” The DCRPC has identified and mapped environmental corridors and environmentally sensitive areas to “help local government protect lands needed for drainage and recreation; avoid problems from development on steep slopes, poor soils, or flood-prone areas; protect water resources and avoid pollution; and enhance scenic beauty and wildlife habitat.” (See Map Appendix J for a map of steep slopes in the city.)

6. Surface Water

Located on the eastern and southern shores of Lake Monona, the city has more than four miles of shoreline and several public access points to Lake Monona. The city’s southern portion is bordered by the Monona Wetlands. Additionally, the Yahara River runs through the southern half of the community. In 1994 the Yahara Waterfront Walkway at River Place was constructed. The walkway provides public access to the River Place Cove and the Yahara River.



7. Floodplains

As the City of Monona has an extensive network of surface water, including: lakes; streams; rivers and lagoons, natural floodplains occur extensively through the city, surrounding these areas. The City of Monona understands the important hydrological function of its floodplains and thus these low lying lands are protected, and development is regulated through its *Floodplain and Shoreland-Wetland Zoning Ordinance*. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also has developed floodplain regulations that apply to floodplains in the City of Monona. Federal funding, as available and applicable, will be used to alleviate flooding problems in areas of existing development.

As a complement to the current regulations, the City of Monona is working with Dane County to develop a county-wide *Flood Mitigation Plan*, an effort which will develop a plan to minimize future losses resulting from floods.



8. Wetlands

The Monona Wetland Conservancy is a 220-acre land area along the city's southern borders. Wetlands make up approximately eight percent of the city's total land area. The Kaukauna-Gisholt Machine Company deeded the wetland area in the early 1970s, an area that extends along the southern portions of the city, from the western city limits along West Broadway, east to the Yahara River. A *Management Plan* was created in 1990 for the management and conservation of this environmentally sensitive area and requires future updates.

In addition to the Wetland Conservancy, a large wetland area comprises a part of the 20-acre Aldo Leopold Nature Center. Isolated wetland areas also exist in the central area of Monona.

In 1993, the *Monona Yahara Walkway Plan* was adopted for possible boardwalk access to the Monona Wetland Conservancy area. (See Map Appendix K for a map of wetlands in Monona.)



9. Wildlife Habitat

The Monona Wetlands and Monona Woodland Park provide a natural habitat for wildlife within the urban area. Other urbanized pockets of wildlife habitat exist throughout the city. The lakeshore is an important wildlife habitat in Monona. The Aldo Leopold Nature Center, located north and east of Monona's Woodland Park, is surrounded by wetlands, woods, and an open prairie area with trails; this area also serves as another wildlife habitat in the city. The City of Monona leases land that it purchased in 1995 from the Sand County Foundation to the nature center.

10. Parks

Monona's city park system contains a diverse mix of 25 parks, which include over 330 acres of neighborhood parks, community parks, area parks, and open space. These parks provide such recreation facilities as: shelters; basketball hoops; playground equipment; baseball and softball diamonds; tennis courts; soccer fields; lake access; historical sites; hiking trails; volleyball courts; an ice skating rink; and a swimming pool. Each park has its own unique characteristics. (See Map Appendix H for a map locating parks in Monona.) In addition to the various parks, Monona also contains bicycle routes and hiking trails. (See Map Appendix E for a bicycle routes map.) The City's *Park and Open Space Plan*, adopted in May of 2001, provides extensive background information on each of the city's parks. This plan is revised and updated every five years. (For specific goals and objectives regarding park facilities and recreational opportunities, see the Utilities, Community Facilities and Services Element.)

Master Plan Survey respondents (2000) indicated that the park system is a very important natural feature in the city. (See Appendix E for these survey results.)



C. Historical and Cultural Resources

Monona's historic culture is diverse. Native Americans first inhabited the community, like many other Wisconsin communities. The City has preserved this basic foundation in a variety of manners. Many original Native American words and names remain throughout the community in the names of streets, bodies of water, and other natural resources. The City's name is an Indian word meaning "beautiful." However, there is some ambiguity to the name's meaning, but the most common interpretation of the name is "beautiful."

Original Indian burial and effigy mounds have been preserved at different locations in the City. One of the most significant preservations of the Native American heritage in the community has been located in the Indian Mound Park. The Monona Landmarks Commission placed a state historical marker in this park describing the Outlet Mound as a burial place used by the Woodland Indians. This is the first state historical marker in the City of Monona. In 2001 the City's Landmarks Commission has also placed a state historical marker in Monona's Woodland Park to mark the large Tompkins-Brindler mound group. A booklet on the Native American history in the City of Monona is also being written.



In 1999, the Blooming Grove Historical Society, with support from the City of Monona, published *Monona in the Making: History of the City of Pride, 1938-1975*. This book depicts the developments of the community, its government, departments, schools, and churches. Prior to that, the Monona Landmarks Commission published *City of Monona: Its Landmarks and Heritage* in 1980. This book includes descriptions of Monona's numerous culturally and historically significant homes and structures.

Monona has a collection of diverse historic architecture. International Style houses are flat-roofed, box-like homes constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. In addition, several other historic houses, such as the Frank Allis House (San Damiano) and the Otto Schroeder (Aaron Bohrod) House, are scattered throughout the community. Nichols School, an example of typical historic 1930s elementary school architecture, stands on the same corner where the area's children have attended school since 1869. The Tower of Memories at the Roselawn Memorial Park Cemetery has a unique form of Gothic Revival funerary architecture. In May 2003 a historical marker was placed on the Tower of Memories.

One of Monona's important cultural resources is its public library, which houses information about the City of Monona and other cultural resources for community members.

Monona is proud of its abundant cultural resources in the community. The City established a Landmarks Commission in 1975 to protect, enhance, and perpetuate the historical and cultural heritage of the city. The City of Monona plans to take more action in restoring and preserving historic features of the city.

The State of Wisconsin has some funding available for communities to conduct historical surveys. The City may apply for a grant through the State Historical Society to conduct an intensive historic architecture survey. Such a survey has not occurred in Monona, and Society staff believes that the city is under-surveyed in this area. The State Historical Society's records indicate that none of Monona's International Style homes or other historic homes are part of the *National or State Register of Historic Places* (2001). Monona plans to undertake a survey and promote the registration of these homes and other historical sites within the next twenty years. By having these sites registered, the site owners may be eligible for tax credits to help maintain the historical significance of the property. Additionally,

the Landmarks Commission will complete an inventory of the city’s historical sites. The city’s historic records will be archived in the Monona Public Library.

City of Monona: Its Landmarks and Heritage was written in 1980, and some changes have taken place since its publishing as new landmarks have been recognized in the community. In conjunction with the city inventory, the Landmarks Commission will update the booklet on Monona’s historic places.

The Landmarks Commission has numerous projects to protect and preserve Monona’s history. In the next twenty years, the City hopes to restore some historic sites, such as the Springhaven Pagoda. This site is in a state of deterioration, and the commission will work to protect and restore it. Similar action will be taken with other landmarks. Besides preserving existing landmarks, the City will work to increase the recognition of historically significant locations. Creating historic preservation guidelines is one of the many steps that the City needs to take to accomplish its goal of cultural and historic preservation.

III. Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Note. This does not imply ranking of importance.

Goals:	Objectives & Policies:
NATURAL RESOURCES	
<p>D) Preserve and enhance the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Monona for the enjoyment of present residents and future generations.</p>	<p>A) Preserve environmental corridors, scenic views, natural land, and areas of ecological significance.</p> <p>B) Encourage conservation practices that improve the quality of the land, water, and air.</p> <p>C) Preserve primary wetlands in their natural state and conserve soils, water, and forest resources.</p> <p>D) Encourage the proper handling of wastes and chemicals, so that they have a minimal adverse effect on health and the environment.</p> <p>E) Encourage uses of land and other natural resources that are in accordance with their character and adaptability.</p> <p>F) Protect, maintain, and enhance the quality of Monona's drinking water.</p> <p>G) Update the <i>1990 Wetland Management Plan</i> to improve the environmental qualities of the wetlands and to enhance their educational, recreational, and visual values.</p> <p>H) Inventory Monona’s current tree stock.</p> <p>I) Prepare a forest management plan that focuses on continuing tree preservation and planting.</p> <p>J) Update City’s plans that relate to natural resources, such as the 5-year Park and Open Space Plan, as necessary.</p> <p>K) Maintain existing cooperative relationships for the maintenance and preservation of cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>L) Maintain a cooperative relationship with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).</p> <p>M) Preserve and enhance the quality of Lake Monona.</p>

Goals:

Objectives & Policies:

CULTURAL RESOURCES

II) Protect and perpetuate improvements, sites, and districts, which reflect Monona’s cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history.

- A) Inventory the city’s landmarks and historic sites.
- B) Create historic preservation guidelines.
- C) Update the *City of Monona: Landmarks and Heritage* book.
- D) Prepare a Monona history book from 1975 to present.
- E) Conduct a historical survey of the city.
- F) Assist and encourage historic homeowners in registering their homes in the state or national register.
- G) Continue to mark places of historic significance in Monona, such as the Royal Airport.
- H) Provide opportunities for education and community awareness of Monona’s history, such as roundtable discussions, organizing walking tours, and distributing information through publications and news articles.
- I) Encourage the preservation of published articles on Monona’s events in retrievable form through the establishment of archives at the Library to maintain historic records of the city.

