

Town of Perry

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Prepared by the Town of Perry Open Space Committee

February 2002

Adopted by Town of Perry Board – March 19, 2002

Table of Contents

- I Introduction
- II. Town of Perry Resolution
- III. Statement of Need
- IV. Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives of Plan
- V. Planning Process
 - A. Description of the Process
 - B. Amending the Plan
 - C. Plan Implementation
- VI. Description of Town of Perry Planning Region
 - A. Social Characteristics
 - B. Physical Characteristics
 - C. Summary
- VII. Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment
 - A. Needs Assessment Survey
 - B. Survey Results
- VIII. Open Space and Recreation Supply Inventory
 - A. Resources Available for Outdoor Recreation
 - B. Outdoor Recreation Facilities
 - C. Sites of Public Interest
- IX. Funding Opportunities
- X. Recommendations
 - A. Recreational Facilities Development Programs
 - B. Operations and Maintenance
 - C. Future Open Space Planning and Related Planning Activities
 - D. Grant Opportunities

Appendices

- A. Maps:
 - 1. Town of Perry Open Space Map
 - 2. Biking and Hiking Trails Map
- B. Town of Perry Letter and Open Space Questionnaire results
- C. Copy of Town of Perry Open Space Questionnaire
- D. Summary of Zoning Changes 1989-2001

I. Introduction

This is the first Open Space Plan for the Town of Perry. The primary purpose of this plan is to identify the natural resources and features that the Town of Perry should preserve for the benefit of its citizens, present and future. Preserving valuable natural resources as open space or parklands will reward the Town's citizens with a high-quality living environment. The town Board also realizes the value of an Open Space plan as a planning tool that would compliment its existing Land Use Plan. The Town of Perry believes that with both a quality Open Space Plan, and Land Use Plan, it will best comply with the requirements of the new Smart Growth initiative.

This Open Space Plan is for the period of 2001- 2005. The recommendations put forth in this Plan should be examined annually and completely reviewed at the end of the planning period in order to determine how well the Town has achieved its goals. Future planning efforts should build on the recommendations made in this plan. The adoption of this plan will enable the Town to participate in county, state, and federal grant programs.

II. Resolution of Plan Approval

Resolution: Whereas: The Town Board established the Open Space Plan committee on January 9, 2001; and Whereas: The Open Space Plan Committee has developed the Town of Perry Open Space and Recreation Plan and has held a public hearing on that Plan; and Whereas: the Open Space Planning Committee recommended that the Plan be approved by the Town Board; Now Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Town of Perry Board hereby adopts the Open Space and Recreation Plan dated February 2002. Roll Call Vote: Larry Price, Yea; Dan Keller, No; Pat Downing, Yea. Motion carried. (Minutes of Town Board meeting, March 19, 2002)

III. Statement of Need

The Town of Perry is very fortunate in that it is considered one of the most beautiful townships in the State of Wisconsin. Preserving the Town's rich natural and scenic beauty, rural character, and its rich historic features is a primary concern of the Town's citizens, as reported in the recent Open Space survey. This is of special importance in that Dane County is the fastest growing County in Wisconsin, a fact that will likely have substantial impact on the Town in future years. For this reason this Open Space Plan identifies the major Park and Open Space resources of the Town of Perry for inclusion in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan to help insure the protection and enhancement of these resources now and for the future in the Town of Perry.

IV. Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives of Plan

The mission of the Town of Perry Open Space Plan is: *To identify, preserve, protect and enhance the natural, cultural and historic features of the Town of Perry and to develop and explore park and recreational opportunities.*

The Town will accomplish this mission:

1. Through careful planning, education, public participation, acquisition, development and stewardship.
2. In partnership with town residents and landowners, as well as non-profit organizations and government agencies.
3. According to guidelines identified in the Town's Land Use Plan and this Plan.

4. By coordinating our Open Space planning efforts with Dane County and private or non-profit organizations to leverage ongoing activities and maximize potential benefits.

V. The Planning Process

A. Description of the Process.

The Perry Board decided to form an Open Space Planning committee in late 1999 and appointed the following Town residents to an Open Space Committee in the spring 2000:

Mick Klein Kennedy, Chair
Donald Mueller, Secretary
Craig Bluschke
Gary Boley
Barrett Browning
Gerald Burns
Ed Sutter
Gary Karls

The Open Space Planning Committee talked with numerous individuals to gather information for this plan. The following individuals provided key information that has been incorporated in this document:

Stefanie Brouwer, DNR South Central Region
Duane Hofstetter, Retired DNR Grants Specialist
Jim Mueller, Dane County Parks Planner
Mary Price, Clerk, Town of Perry

The Open Space Planning Committee also referred to the following documents in preparing this plan:

- Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plans
- Results of the Town of Perry Open Space Questionnaire
- Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan
- Town of Verona Parks and Open Space Plan
- Town of Perry Land Use Plan
- Recent Park and Open Space Plans of similar-sized jurisdictions in Wisconsin
- DNR 2001 Grant Guidelines and Application

B. Amending the Plan.

The Town of Perry Open Space Plan will require periodic review and amendment in light of changing conditions and experience gained in its implementation. To accomplish this, the Town of Perry Open Space Planning Committee will review the plan annually for any needed changes, with a major reevaluation every five years thereafter. Resident input at these reviews will be invited.

C. Plan Implementation

This Plan is a guide for the Town for park and open space development. Implementation of any of the recommendations of this plan will require the approval of the Town Board with public input.

VI. Description of Town of Perry Planning Region

A. Social Characteristics

Overview

Those who are new to Perry Township may turn to this section to learn about the people, agricultural activity, and natural resources of the community. Conversely, those who have called Perry “home” for some time may review this section for information on aspects of Perry outside of their daily routine or for information about findings that have come to light since the previous revision of the town’s Land Use Plan. In both cases, such self-education can lead each reader to identify, acknowledge, and appreciate the Township’s distinctive features.

We begin the major parts of this section with a look at history, concluding with a summary of what is known at present. In so doing, a return to yesteryear is not advocated. Instead, historical perspectives help tell the stories of how we got to where we are today. These accounts, in turn provide the foundation for the goals and policies that follow for protecting Perry’s valuable social, agricultural, and natural resources.

People

Historical Background

Perry’s rich human history was described in 1994 in a comprehensive, extensively researched and illustrated publication entitled *The Historical Perry Norwegian Settlement*. (Copies can be obtained by writing the Perry Historical Center, 1057 Hwy. 78, Mount Horeb, WI 53572.) The book describes in detail the region’s churches, schools, families, Perry’s only hamlet Daleyville, cheese factories, and musical groups.

This landmark account of Perry’s history mentions various historic pre-Civil War houses, a rock barn, and log cabins that still exist. Many other historic Township buildings have been preserved. The five rural schools once found here closed in the mid-1960s and were consolidated with the three school districts that exist today. Four of the five former school buildings were converted to private dwellings; the fifth now serves as the Perry Town Hall. Of the 22 cheese factories that once operated in the Township, all have closed, but 11 have been converted to private dwellings. In addition, many old barns are scattered throughout Perry. Besides continuing to be functional, many of these barns are acquiring historical value.

According to the Wisconsin State Historical Society, the Township contains nine known cemeteries and one archeological site. Locations of five of these nine cemeteries are well known; the remaining four may be smaller, unmarked burial grounds on private land. The fact that only one site of archeological significance is on record indicates only what has been reported to the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Early Native American presence in this area is also described in *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*.

Population and Development Trends

From historical times, we take a giant leap forward to today. The land use challenge facing Perry in recent decades is how to best deal with the possible effect of population growth - in particular, the creation of new residences - on agricultural operations and the rural character. While U.S. Census data record population declines from 760 in 1950 to 632 in 1980, Perry's population increased slightly over the last 15 years. As of 1995, 653 people were estimated to live in Perry. The 2000 US Census reported that 670 people now live in Perry. Please see a summary of Zoning Changes that have occurred in the Town of Perry from 1995 through 2001 in Appendix C.

Accompanying these modest population increases in the 1990s were fairly rapid increases in the number of new houses. The number of new houses averaged just over 1 per year between 1981 and 1990, but jumped to over 5 per year from 1991 to 1995. As a result, total number of houses increased from 225 in 1990 to 251 by 1995. The 2000 US Census reported that there are now 263 housing units in Perry.

Economic Changes

As has happened in most rural communities in Wisconsin over the last 30-40 years, Perry Township has gradually shifted away from a dependence on farming as a source of employment and income toward an economy in which most residents commute to wage or salary jobs outside of the Township. Declining farm profits have encouraged farm family members (either a farm operator, a spouse, or another adult in the household) to pursue off farm employment, to supplement farm household living expenses and to provide increasingly important health and retirement benefits. In most farm households in Wisconsin in the 1990s – but especially in areas like Perry near large cities – income off the farm often exceeds income from the farm itself.

The shift away from dependence on farming reflects mainly an increase in the number of Perry residents working in other occupations, rather than a dramatic decrease in agricultural activity in the Township. Aggregate income from farming, adjusted for inflation, decreased by only 6 percent between 1980 and 1990 as shown in table below. Meanwhile, income from all other sources rose by almost 60 percent during the same period.

Income of Perry Residents – 1980 to 1990*

	1980	1990
Median household income (1980 figures adjusted for inflation)	\$31,503	\$34,333
Percent of population in poverty	6.5%	4.2%
Percent of population living on a farm	56.3%	41.4%
Percent of households reporting any farm income	51.6%	41.4%
Sources of household income (percent of total)		
Wage and salary income	60.4%	52.5%
Non-farm self-employment income	2.9%	14.3%
Farm self-employment income	28.7%	19.7%
Passive income (from interest/dividends, social security, and public assistance)	7.0%	11.3%
All other income	0.9%	2.7%
Occupations of working adults		
Farming, forestry, or fishing	43.2%	34.8%
Managers, executives, or professionals	9.8%	16.9%
Technical, sales, or administrative support	16.4%	20.6%
Service jobs	12.5%	10.4%
Other occupations	18.2%	17.2%

* 2000 census data will be available in late spring, 2002

Although the role of agriculture in the local economy has changed rapidly, Perry still remains one of the most agricultural Townships in Dane County (see table below). These figures show that over 40% of Perry residents lived on a working farm in 1990. This is twice as high as the percentage of residents (20% or less) living on a farm in 22 of the other townships in the County. Only one township (York) had a slightly higher proportion of their residents living on farms than Perry. In the majority of townships, fewer than 10% of adults said they worked in farm occupations. In Perry, by contrast, more than one third of adults were employed in farm jobs. Perry also led the way in share of income from farming.

Farming Significance in Perry Compared with Other Dane County Townships, 1990

	Residents Living on a Farm	Adults Working in Farm Operations	Total Household Income from Farming
Perry Township	41.4%	34.8%	19.7%
Dane Co. Townships			
0-10 percent	11 Townships	19 Townships	28 Townships
10-20 percent	11 Townships	12 Townships	6 Townships
20-30 percent	7 Townships	2 Townships	0 Townships
30-40 percent	3 Townships	1 Township	0 Townships

Source: US Census, which defines a farm as a place that sells at least \$1,000 of farm products in a year and defines farm occupation as including employment in farming, forestry, or fishing.

Agriculture

As any drive along Perry roads will show, agricultural activities dominate the visual landscape and provide an essential part of the social, economic, and aesthetic quality of life in our community.

Historical Trends

In the early to mid-1900s, almost everyone in the township (except those in Daleyville) lived on active farms. Farmers relied mainly on income from the sale of milk and dairy products, but the wide range of crops grown to feed the cows, chickens, and pigs usually present shows the farms to be highly diversified. Most milk was hauled to cheese factories within the township. Farm families produced a large share of the food they consumed, and few had family members employed in non-agricultural activities off the farm.

As elsewhere in Wisconsin, farm production in Perry Township changed dramatically after World War II. Improvements in crop yields (due to increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as well as improved seed varieties) increased agricultural output and lowered farm commodity prices. Rising costs and lower farm prices forced farmers to expand, a process helped by development of new farm machinery. Labor and technology required for larger farms encouraged farmers to specialize. Fewer crops or livestock were raised, with dairying emerging as the primary enterprise on most farms. Gradually, smaller farms were consolidated into larger ones, and the number of viable commercial farms in Perry declined. Over the same period, consolidation in food processing gradually led to the demise of all of the Township's cheese factories. Most farms remained centered around dairying, but now they shipped their milk to larger processing plants.

Until 1980, Township assessors were instructed to collect information about the number of farms, livestock inventories, and crop acreage. Results suggest that the number of farms and acres in farming fell gradually throughout the 1970s. Acreage used to produce corn and hay increased, whereas the planting of oats dropped almost in half. In general, the number of livestock raised by Perry farmers declined more slowly, and the number of hogs actually increased between 1967 and 1980.

Farming Today

Unlike flatter areas of southern Wisconsin, southwestern Dane County does not favor intensive cash grain farming (a system in which very large fields of corn or soybeans are planted year in and year out.) The rolling topography here is more suited to use as pastures or less-intensive forms of crop production. Most farmers plant fields that follow natural landscape contours and typically rotate grain crops (such as corn or soybeans) with forages and legumes. Contour planting and crop rotations provide the added benefit of reducing soil erosion and decreasing pesticide use. During the growing season, narrow strips of spiked corn, deep green alfalfa, and waving oats alternate along the contours of most farm fields, providing a dramatic mosaic of colors and textures that is the trademark of Perry farming landscape

Accurate and detailed information about the nature of farming in Perry today is difficult to come by. Because assessors no longer collect detailed farm data, other sources have to be used to fill in the picture. Local estimates of the number of farming operations currently in the Township range from 30 to 80. Part of the reason for these differences lie in defining what constitutes a “real” farm. For some, only full-scale commercial farms capable of producing enough income to support a family are considered farms. To others, the growing number of small and medium-scale operations in Perry are also viewed as farms. These enterprises, which combine farm with non-farm income, are significant not only for their contributions to the local economy but also for their ability to keep the landscape open and maintain the rural aesthetic.

While the U.S. Census of Agriculture does not report data at the township level, it has summarized selected farm characteristics for each zip code in the United States. Because over 90 percent of Perry Township is located in the Mount Horeb 53572 zip code, and because Perry makes up roughly a third of the zip code’s rural land area, information about farms in that zip code is a reasonable yardstick for farms in the Township.

Farm Size and Scale In 1992, there were roughly 253 farms in the Mount Horeb area. Most of them were of modest size with 85% having over 50 acres of land, though essentially none had more than 1,000 acres (a size that is fairly common in the more industrialized regions of the Midwest.) Farms that have gross sales of agricultural products of less than \$10,000 in a year are often considered to be non-commercial or part time farms. These made up about a third of the farms in the Mount Horeb area. Another 27% of farms had gross sales greater than \$100,000. The remainder (38 percent) had gross sales between \$10,000 and \$100,000. These farms represent a serious farming enterprise (in terms of time, acreage and labor effort), yet they may be unable to generate sufficient profit to enable farm households to survive without income from off farm sources.

Farm Types Farming in the Mount Horeb area is mainly a livestock-based activity. Over 80 percent of farms in 1992 sold some kind of livestock products, mostly dairy products (about half of the farms) or cattle and calves (almost three-quarters of all farms, including most of the dairy farms.) Most farms that sell cattle or calves fall into one of the three categories: a) dairy farms selling cull animals and male calves as beef, b) farmers raising replacement heifers for sale to dairy farmers, and c) traditional cow-calf enterprises raising cattle primarily for the beef market. Other livestock raised in the area include hogs, dairy goats, sheep, poultry and horses.

Although most livestock farmers also raise crops, the majority of the grain and hay produced in the area is still used to feed livestock on the farm and is not marketed as a cash crop. In 1992, just over 40 percent of all farms reported the sale of any crops, mainly hay, corn, soybeans and

oats. Many such sales also occur between neighboring farmers, rather than on the open commodity markets. There are several farms in the area that produce and market vegetables, fruits, and greenhouse crops, though these tend to presently make up a relatively small fraction of the overall total.

The Conservation Reserve Program In 1992, almost 30 percent of farms in the Mount Horeb area some or all of their cropland was enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Administered by the USDA, CRP is designed to remove highly erodible land from agricultural production. Producers place bids to enroll acreage in the program for 10-year periods. Contracts require that farmers do not plow, plant, or graze this land during this time. Most CRP acreage in the County has reverted to grassland, though some has also been planted to trees.

Compared with the rest of the state, farmers and landowners in Dane County enrolled an unusually high proportion of their cropland in CRP during the late 1980s. On some farms in the area, the entire cropland acreage is enrolled in CRP. By 1995, almost 10 percent of cropland in the County was in CRP. In Perry, 4,704 acres are enrolled in CRP, which is about 25% of its total acres of farmland.

Because CRP began in 1986, the first farmers to enroll saw their CRP contracts expire in the spring of 1996. Most CRP contracts in Dane County expired in 1997-99. Although the U.S. Congress extended CRP, a much smaller number of acres are likely to qualify. Whether landowners and farmers will choose to leave the land as grassland (or forests) when their contracts expire, or whether they will return the land to crop production, will have a serious impact on the level and type of agricultural activity in the Township in the next few years.

Future Prospects In recent years, there has been considerable concern expressed about the future of agriculture, particularly dairy farming, in Perry Township. Indeed, the trend toward fewer farms, more part-time farms, and enterprises that produce crops or livestock with fewer labor requirements than dairying, appears to have accelerated in the 1990s. Explanations for this trend are complex. Factors include poor farm commodity prices, low rates of entry by younger farmers, increases in farmland prices associated with competition for development, and rising property taxes.

Despite these factors, the story that emerges about agriculture in Perry is that farming activity has not decreased significantly in recent years. Dairying and beef production remains a mainstay, but there has been a gradual shift toward different types of agriculture. As elsewhere in Dane County, cash cropping may increase as some farms go out of dairying and as CRP contracts expire. In addition, farm income in Perry is now being supplemented with income from off the farm.

Although exact numbers are not known, some farms are no longer involved in agricultural production. This loss would affect the quality of life in Perry in a number of ways. Traditionally, farming activities provided the foundation of rural community life in the area. Culturally, forms of neighborliness, cooperation, and watchfulness evolved from farm families helping each other with farm work. Even today, a significant amount of social interaction in the Township is based on farming and farm-related activities. Additionally, farming remains the most significant single source of employment and provides a large share of total household income for Township residents. Farming in Perry is critical to the health of agricultural-related industries located in Mount Horeb, Blanchardville, and Mount Vernon. Finally, the open fields, farm machinery, and seasonal cycles of

planting and harvest associated with farming provide an aesthetic quality that makes the rural landscape so appealing in a society that is becoming increasingly urban.

Agricultural production in the Township is very diverse and constantly changing. The dominant historical position of dairy farms and their subsidiary enterprises (beef cattle, replacement heifers, and hay and grain production) still shape the character of farming in the community. Because dairy farms typically produce much higher income per acre than most other types of farms in Wisconsin, their impact on the local agriculture-related economy is even greater than their numbers might suggest. Virtually all farms with sales larger than \$100,000 in the area, for example, are dairy based.

In recent years, however, a number of Township residents have established new farming enterprises based on non-traditional crops or livestock. Most common are dairy goat and/or sheep flocks, greenhouse and nursery crop enterprises, and vegetable production. Many of these new enterprises market a large proportion of their farm commodities directly to consumers (mainly locally but also in Milwaukee and Chicago). In addition, a growing number of dairy and others have moved away from traditional confinement milking systems and feedlot to pasture-based, rotational-grazing system of management.

The future of agriculture in Perry Township will likely include a combination of traditional and innovative types of farms. Efforts should be made to make traditional dairy farm enterprises more viable and to encourage the further growth of non-traditional types of farms. Policies that limit the escalation of agricultural land prices due to residential development may make farming more viable.

B. Physical Characteristics

Natural Resources

Physical Geography

Perry Township's ridge top vistas, gently sloped valleys, wandering streams, rock outcrops and rugged cliffs create a picturesque landscape. Located within the Driftless Area (an area of southwestern Wisconsin not covered by glaciers), Perry was not leveled, scoured or blanketed with glacial deposits from the last continental ice sheets, which receded about 10,000 years ago. Instead, Perry is a plateau formed by deposits of ancient seas. Since then, streams have slowly carved narrow valleys in a pattern resembling the branches of trees.

Perry Township is blanketed by a thin layer of windblown silt (called loess) which drifted in from nearby lands that were freed of their glacial cover, had dried out, and did not have enough plants to hold the soil. Glacial melt waters further carved Perry's valleys and laid down deeper concentrations of silt along valley bottoms.

Throughout the Township, shallow, dry soils occur on the ridges, where soil permeability is low and surface runoff is high. The valley floors hold more fertile soils. On the slopes, soils are variable but in general are slightly more permeable than those on the ridges.

The soils of the Township have been categorized according to their agricultural capability as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. Four categories are identified.

Choice Farmland is land having the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to Produce sustained high yields of crops economically when managed and worked according to modern farming methods. Choice farmland occupies 29% of Perry Township.

Fair Farmland is land that is not the most productive because of soil limitations. However, with Proper measures taken to compensate for these limitations, this land can be satisfactory for the Production of various foods, feed fiber, and forage crops. Fair farmland makes up 29% of Perry.

Poor Farmland - because of its historically poor production capabilities this is land that is marginal for traditional agricultural production; it may, however, sustain specialized/diversified agricultural Practice. Poor farmland is found on 32% of Perry Township.

Steep Farmland is land that is too steep for mechanized agricultural production as well as for Development; it may, however, be utilized as pastureland. In Perry, 10% is steep farmland.

Surface Waters and Wetlands

Most of Perry Township lies within the Pecatonica River watershed, however the northeastern part of the Township lies in the Sugar River watershed.

Streams Perry's surface waters consist of permanent and temporary streams. No natural lakes are found here. Major streams are Pleasant Valley Branch and its four main tributaries: Syftestad Creek, Kittleson Valley Creek, Jeglum Valley Creek, and York Valley Creek (also known as Lee Creek). A total of 32 springs feed the Pleasant Valley Branch watershed.

Streams with the steepest slopes (gradients) are Jeglum Valley Creek, Syftestad Creek, and York Valley Creek, with the best water quality in Jeglum Valley and Syftestad creeks. The average depth of these streams is six inches, and the average width is three to four feet. In the absence of disturbance, bottom types are usually gravel or rubble because stream gradient discourages settling of silt. The streams are prone to flooding, however, because of their steep gradients and rapid runoff across the hilly topography.

In 1985, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) listed the entire Pleasant Valley Branch as a Class II trout stream even though brown trout are not known to reproduce there naturally. Instead, the stream's trout fishery is maintained by DNR stocking. Additional stocking has kept brown trout in both Jeglum and York Valley creeks. In Syftestad Creek, a rare fish called the redbreast dace has been found which the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources categorizes as a species of Special Concern.

Wetlands The Township's few wetlands are confined mainly to the floodplains of streams or to spring seeps. According to the DNR's Wetland Inventory Program Perry Township supports 246 acres of wetlands.

Wetlands harbor an abundance of plant and animal life. Nearly one-third of Wisconsin's endangered and threatened species require wetlands. These areas also keep surrounding land healthier by storing floodwaters, filtering sediments and contaminants, and recharging groundwater. In Perry, the wet-prairie plants Glade Mallow (classified as a special concern species), Wild Quinine (a state threatened species), and other rare plants are found in less disturbed areas.

Grasslands and Savannas For nearly 6,500 years, Perry had been an oak savanna and prairie landscape, dominated by tall, native prairie grasses and wildflowers, with scattered groves of bur oak, white oak, black oak, and shagbark hickory. Early explorers gave the name "prairie" (French for meadow) to the vast treeless grasslands they encountered. "Savanna" (a Spanish word) describes native grasslands sparsely dotted with trees (usually oaks). Although today's grass-covered land includes numerous types of grasses (such as smooth brome, timothy, and quack grass) that have been introduced by European settlers, this section focuses on Perry's original grasslands - its prairies and savannas.

Perry's savannas and prairies depend largely on periodic disturbances to remain open. Wildfires formerly served this purpose, including those caused by lightning and those set by Native Americans to promote hunting and travel. Grazing herds of bison and elk, burrowing mammals, tree-eating insects, and tree-killing diseases also played significant roles. Where these disturbances did not control the woody growth, pockets of forest arose.

Today, oak savannas and tall-grass prairies are vanishing features of the Midwest. Most, including those in Perry, have been cleared and plowed, invaded by dense shrubs and trees (due to fire suppression), or overgrazed to the point where the ground layer beneath has been converted to weedy plants, both native and non-native.

Despite this, patches of native prairie still remain in Perry on scattered private parcels. These remnants are easily identified in late summer and autumn when big and little bluestem grasses, indian grass, and side-oats grama grass stand high and turn shades of rust and orange. The flowers of the prairie change throughout the season from the early purple pasque flowers of April and prairie violets in May to the yellow sunflowers and purple blue asters of August.

Most of these spots of prairie are found on soil too shallow or too steep to plow, on sites too isolated to graze, or on road edges, especially where mowing is done late, after flowering plants have been able to reproduce and set seed. Moderate or rotational grazing of pastures can permit prairie remnants to survive because brush is prevented from taking over. Scattered groves of older, savanna-grown oaks still grace the hillsides and pastures, lending an appearance of the original savanna landscape. If desired by local landowners, these areas have potential to be restored to true savanna with appropriate management and perhaps some seeding in native plants.

Rare plant species native to prairies/oak savannas that are known to inhabit Perry include roundstem foxglove, purple meadow-parsnip, and prairie turnip. Several rare grassland birds nest in the area, including Bell's vireo, upland sandpiper, northern harrier hawk, bobolink, dickcissel, western meadowlark, and Henslow's sparrow. Short-eared owls are known to hunt the area during the winter. Of these rare plants and birds, the foxglove and vireo are listed as State-threatened; the other nine are categorized as of Special Concern. Little is known about the native reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates of the Township's remaining prairies and savannas.

These small "islands" of Perry's natural heritage may be important to preserve, even if small and invaded by weeds. From surveys of similar grasslands elsewhere, we know that these areas likely harbor many species that can survive nowhere else, such as the hundreds of native butterflies, leafhoppers, beetles, and other insects that feed only on particular prairie plants.

Preservation of these areas has been a beneficial by-product of the Conservation Reserve Program, which was discussed in the Agricultural Description. Because many Perry residents enrolled their lands in this program, thousands of acres of grassland are now thriving within the Township. These grasslands, though dominated by non-native forage plants such as smooth brome grass, timothy, and alfalfa, still can serve as surrogate prairie for many vertebrate animals, especially birds. The larger and the more connected these grasslands are, the more likely they will be able to sustain the many rare species that require them.

One particularly large connected grassland occurs in the northeast part of the Township. Because of its size, it supports a rich variety of nesting grassland birds every summer. The Wisconsin DNR and the Nature Conservancy have identified this area as one of several potential "landscape-scale grassland management opportunities" left in Wisconsin; they may work with landowners to pursue preservation options. In addition, landowners are encouraged to consider independent protection and management alternatives when returning CRP lands to production.

Small mammals associated with prairie and savanna still do fairly well on these grasslands. They include badger, coyote, red fox, cottontail rabbit, woodchuck, fox squirrel, prairie mole, thirteen-lined ground squirrel, and prairie deer mouse. The bison, elk, black bear, and timber wolf that once roamed the area are gone.

Woodlands Although chiefly covered by open grasslands, Perry's pre-settlement profile included oak woods on slopes and ridge tops that had escaped intense fires hot enough to kill off the trees. In moister areas protected from fire, rich, shady stands of maple and basswood gradually replaced the oaks through natural succession. In periodically wet sites along valley bottoms, swamp white oak, silver maple, willow thickets, and various shrubs arose. Nevertheless, it was Perry's grasslands that predominated in the landscape; and the same is still true today.

Currently, woodlots of varying size and quality are found in Perry Township. Stands of bur oak, white oak, and shagbark hickory occur on steeper slopes unsuitable for cultivation. On shadier slopes and valley bottoms, red and black oaks dominate, often interspersed with stands of black walnut. Today, two of Perry's best woodlots - a red oak-sugar maple woodlot and also a sugar maple-basswood-red elm woodlot - have been identified by the DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources as natural areas of local significance. Maple woods, when not heavily grazed, exhibit a stunning array of wildflowers throughout the spring. If grazed, such woods may still display native wildflowers such as Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty, and trout lily, which flower and die back before livestock enter each spring.

Many of the Township's woodlots are former oak savannas. They can be spotted by the presence of large, open-crowned oaks surrounded by younger trees and brush that have taken over in the absence of fire or grazing. Oaks with two or three equal-sized trunks that resprouted from rootstalks in the absence of fire, or following logging, are common in these second-growth woodlands. Savanna plants may still be found in the ground layer, primarily along the edges of woods and in woodland openings.

A unique plant community known as a pine relict occurs on some sandstone cliffs in the Driftless Area, often on steep north or east-facing slopes. These small stands of white pine, maple, and sometimes red pine persist in cooler pockets as holdovers from Wisconsin's glacial times, when the climate was cooler and vegetation resembled that in our northern woodlands today. In Perry, a white pine and maple relict exists in the far northwest corner of the Township.

Probably all of Perry's remaining, scattered oak hickory woods were at one time either grazed or logged. Woodlands most heavily disturbed contain mainly trees like cherry and box elder, and non-natives like black locust, and mulberry. When the trees are removed and sunlight is let in, these areas give way to weedy thickets of blackberry, raspberry, prickly ash, and stinging nettle. The two most aggressive shrubs invading our southern woodlands are the non-native Asian honeysuckle and buckthorn.

Many animals once found in the southern woodlands such as deer, raccoon, skunk, coyote, gray fox, blue jay and robin, are still present in Perry. Large mammals such as black bear are gone. As woodlots get smaller and farther apart, songbirds decline. On smaller tracts, birds that live along the edges (brown headed cowbirds, crows, blue jays, and grackles, for example) can easily penetrate the wooded interior; here they raid the nests of woodland songbirds and replace the songbirds' eggs with their own.

As of 1995, 997 acres (22%) of Perry's woodlands were enrolled in the DNR's woodland tax law programs, which provide tax incentives for landowners that oversee their woodlots in accordance with an approved management plan for the site. (Compare this figure with the 160 acres [6%] of Perry's woodland enrolled in this woodland tax program in 1979; the increase in 1995 may be the result of some planting as well as natural succession.) This tax program is comparable in effect to that of the CRP on Perry's grasslands, which are considerably more extensive than Perry's woodlands (see Grasslands and Savannas.)

Cliff Communities As elsewhere in the Driftless Area, a number of open and shaded cliff communities occur in Perry Township. These areas can be as large as a tall vertical rock face and as small as a single rocky ledge. Cliff communities support plants that are adapted to cliff life and that are generally not found anywhere else. These plants - of which ferns are the most common example - thrive with very little soil by sending roots far into the rock in search of water and nutrients.

On open and unshaded cliffs characteristic plants include sand cress, harebell, smooth cliff brake, rusty cliff fern, and blunt cliff fern. On shady, wooded cliffs, common plants are rock cress, wild columbine, slender cliff brake, and bulblet bladder-fem.

Little is presently known of Perry's cliff communities; however one dry sandstone cliff supporting prairie and oaks exists in the far northwest corner of the Township and another shady cliff in the southwest have been surveyed. On a smaller scale, many properties throughout Perry have rocky ledges that provide a home for cliff plants.

C. Summary

Perry clearly has many assets. Most are highly visible (for example, its neatly contoured farm fields). Others like a tiny cemetery or small prairie remnant are not. Hopefully, these descriptions

will help shine a light on the most important of these assets that make our Township a special place to live.

Although Section VI, B. of this document has examined our natural resources individually, together they compose the whole that is Perry Township. They are considered independently of each other for ease of discussion, but they are interlinked to such a degree that significant changes in one feature will likely affect at least one other. What each of us does has important repercussions for all. For example, extensive logging on one person's property may lead to erosion that has an impact on the neighbors. Creek pollution may have consequences for fish, waterfowl, wells, and livestock downstream. Compromises are possible - and necessary - when we understand that we are the only ones who can now nurture this place we call "home."

VII. Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment

The Committee was given the responsibility to utilize the resources of the Town to develop this Plan. Funds for retaining professional planners was not available, nor was it, in the opinion of the committee, necessary.

The Committee utilized a combination of committee members' visual survey of the Town, their own experiences in the Town, public comments at all committee meetings, and relied heavily on the "public input" method for conducting a needs assessment for the development of this Open Space Plan.

A. Needs Assessment Survey

Survey Development - The Open Space Committee, at a public meeting, solicited feedback from citizens as to what kind of questions should be on a needs assessment survey. The Committee concluded that the survey should be as brief as possible so as to not lead anyone to answer too narrow of a question base. The Committee chose five questions and added an area for comments (See Appendix C - copy of the final letter and questionnaire). The survey was mailed with the annual tax bills in mid-December 2001 which gave Town residents an opportunity to return completed questionnaires with their tax payments. The Committee continued to collect completed survey forms from the Town Clerk and Treasurer through the end of January 2002.

B. Survey Results

Responses were received from 73 out of 290 survey forms mailed for a return rate of 25.2 percent. Following are the top concerns of those that responded to the questionnaire, with detailed results of the survey included as Appendix B:

Question: *Describe your favorite features of the Town of Perry:*

Results:

	<u>Percent of Respondents</u>
1. Absence of Habitation	14.8%
2. Scenic Beauty	13.3%
3. Views & Vistas	12.6%
4. Quiet Rural Quality	9.6%

- | | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 5. Varieties of Landscapes | 8.9% |
|----------------------------|------|

Question: *Identify your favorite scenic drives, views and vistas, environmental or historical features found in the Town of Perry:*

Results:

	<u>Percent of Respondents</u>
1. Hauge Historic Site	17.9%
2. Lee Valley Road	14.2%
3. Highway 78 (North of Daleyville to town line)	9.7%
4. Perry Center Road	6.7%
5. Views of Blue Mounds	6.6%

Question: *What are your favorite outdoors-recreational activities? Which of these activities would you like to see encouraged in the Town of Perry?*

Results:

	<u>Percent of Respondents</u>
1. Hiking/Walking	23.3%
2. Hunting	11.3%
3. Biking	9.8%
4. Cross Country Skiing	9.0%
5. Fishing	6.0%

Question: *Which of the following natural resources are most important to you? Please rank 1-8, where 1 is most important and 8 is least important:*

Results:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Natural Resource</u>
1.	Wooded Areas
2.	Wildlife habitat
3.	Farmland
4.	Hilltops, ridge tops and steep slopes
5.	Stream banks, drainage ways, springs
6.	Geologically unique areas
7.	Grasslands (prairies, oak savanna)
8.	Wetlands

Question: *What specific features in the Town of Perry do you feel are most at risk?*

Results:

	<u>Percent of Respondents</u>
1. Farmland	21.5%
2. Scenic Views	10.3%
3. Ridge Tops	9.3%
4. The Hauge Church	7.5%
5. The Town's Rural Character	6.5%

VIII. Open Space and Recreation Supply Inventory

A. Resources Available for Outdoor Recreation

Existing Sites:

The Laufenberg Streambank Easement on the Kittleson Valley Creek (Number 7 on Appendix 1 Map) was recently completed during 2001. The Kittleson Valley Creek has been designated by Dane County as a “priority stream” for stream bank protection.

Also in 2001 the Town established the Hauge Historic District, a 33-acre area surrounding the 1852 Hauge Log Church. The log church is the only local, County, State and Nationally recognized historic site in Perry and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Perry Hauge Log Church Preservation Association, Inc., a non-profit corporation established in 1966, maintains the church site and cemetery as a monument to the early pioneers that settled Perry and the surrounding area. There is a small picnic area, but there are no modern public facilities. Because of the site’s historic significance and its commanding views and vistas of the Blue Mounds area, the Town established the surrounding Historic District to further protect the site’s views and vistas and to maintain its peaceful character.

Views and Vistas:

Because Perry is located in the geologic driftless area with its rolling terrain the result is our many panoramic views and vistas, with views of the Blue Mounds being most prominent. Along with existing (or remnants) of oak savannas, and the patterns of croplands, the visual character of the Town is further enhanced

Several areas exist along public roadways within the Town that afford travelers scenic views and vistas. The following is a listing of some of those areas (See Appendix 1 – Map):

- A high point on Lee Valley Road (No. 3)
- Second Hauge Church Cemetery – Highway A (No. 5)
- View North from Perry Lutheran Church in Daleyville (No. 6)
- Intersection of Perry Center Road and Spring Valley Road (No. 8)
- Sutter Road View North (No. 10)

In addition, there are at least three roadways that provide unique views and scenes for the driving, biking or walking public. These include (see Appendix 1 – Map):

- Highway 78 – North Town line to Highway Z (No. 4)
- Perry Center Road (No. 12)
- Lee Valley Road (No. 13)

Outdoor Recreation Facilities:

Public Access for Fishing and Hunting: Public access for fishing and hunting is limited in Perry. Fishing access is limited to bridges along public roadways and one location along the Kittleson Valley Creek at the Laufenberg Stream Bank Easement (No. 7). Significant amount of hunting occurs on private lands, however there are no publicly designated areas for hunting in Perry.

Trails: There are no publicly designated trails on private lands in Perry, however there are significant amounts of biking activities in Perry utilizing public roads. State Highway 78, County Highways Z, A, and H are the most commonly used routes. Almost all bikers originate outside the Township. There are no publicly accessible facilities available to bikers or other potential users and no designated walking, cross country skiing, snowmobile, or horse trails facilities in Perry.

Playgrounds/Ball Fields: There are no public sport fields in Perry.

Sites of Interest and Public Use:

The Committee identified the following sites of public interest:

- Hauge Log Church and Cemetery (Hauge Historic District (No. 2) – Public access for viewing the Blue Mounds area and picnicking.
- Lee Valley Cemetery – located on private property (No. 9)
- Spring Valley Drive Cemetery (No. 11)
- Daleyville Highway 78 Cemetery (No. 14)

The cemetery visits appear to be for genealogy studies and for enjoyment of views and vistas from the sites. There are no public facilities available at the above sites.

IX. Funding Opportunities

There are several opportunities for the town of Perry to receive cost-sharing grants from Federal, State and County government and/or public or private foundations for the implementation of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

These opportunities include:

- The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- The Federal Recreation Trails Act (RTA) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs including the Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Program and the Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR).
- Dane County Conservation Fund
- Nature Conservancy

Each of the above funding opportunities includes cost sharing (typically 50%) and may be combined with each other to allow further cost sharing opportunities. For example, the State Stewardship Program and the Dane County Conservation Fund can be combined to allow up to 75% project cost to be provided by those programs. The Town's share can be provided by donations or grants from other private organizations or individuals and through volunteer or community services.

X. Recommendations for Open Space and Recreation Plan

Based on the results of the Town Survey and a review of available data and resources, it is the recommendation of the Open Space Committee that the Town initiate a program to develop various parks and trails to complement our natural resources and to meet the long term needs of the Town residents. The Committee recognizes the limited financial resources available but the adoption of this Plan would enable the Town to take advantage of existing or future national, state and county level assistance programs to implement the Open Space Program.

A. Recreational Facilities Development Programs

1. Park Land Development

The establishment of the Hauge Historic District and decision of the Town electors to proceed to acquire lands within that District, along with the anticipated donation of parklands in Daleyville by the Ranum family, provide Town residents with the opportunity to establish and develop two parks.

Hauge Historic District Community Park – The Town is proceeding with parkland acquisition and is continuing to seek funding opportunities from the State and Dane County. Other sources may also be available. It is recommended that the Town and the Hauge Preservation Association form a joint committee to develop a comprehensive park development plan that will be consistent with both the Town's needs and the Preservation Association's desire to maintain the character of the Historic Hauge Log Church site. That plan should take into consideration the recreational interests of the Town (hiking, walking, skiing trails) and linking that interest with other trails such as the nearby Military Ridge State Trail.

Daleyville Neighborhood Park – It is recommended that the Town, upon completion of the site donation, establish a committee from the Daleyville community to define the use(s) of the park and establish a long-term plan for its development.

2. Scenic Road Designation

It is recommended that Lee Valley Road and Perry Center Road south of Highway A be designated as Scenic or Rustic Roads. It is further recommended that the Town explore potential opportunities with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Dane County Highway Department as to procedures for such designation and to identify programs that the Town can take advantage of with such a designation.

3. Biking and Hiking Trail Corridor

It is recommended that the Town encourage the establishment and development of trail corridors linking the Town's resources with the State and County Corridor planning process for biking, hiking and cross-country skiing. Based on survey results and the potential availability of grant programs, the Town should encourage the establishment and development of roadway bike trails that would link the Town's parks, scenic views, and sites of public interest. The use of easements on private lands to provide additional linkages

should also be reviewed, encouraged, and implemented as seen appropriate. (See Appendix A2 – Proposed Biking and Hiking Trails).

Such a proposed trail corridor would provide links from existing trails such as the nearby Military Ridge Trail to the Hauge Historic Community Park, Daleyville neighborhood park, the Town's scenic roads (Highway 78, Lee Valley Road, Perry Center Road), and Dane County's Donald Park.

4. Streambank Protection and Hunting Areas

It is recommended that the Town encourage the development of streambank protection areas, especially along Kittleson Valley Creek, a Dane County designated "priority stream". It is also recommended that the Town promote the development of private hunting areas.

5. Scenic Views and Vistas

It is recommended that the Town develop a scenic views and vistas protection program as part of the Land Use Plan and consider alternate funding sources to support such a program.

B. Operations and Maintenance

The development of any park or recreation program will entail some level of financial support for its development and maintenance. The Committee recommends that the Town consider at least three options to meet future financial and labor requirements:

1. Town of Perry Road Patrolman – Review the availability of our existing patrolman to provide site mowing and other routine maintenance.
2. Community Volunteer Committee – Consider establishing a volunteer committee that would have day-to-day maintenance responsibilities of the Daleyville Park and/or other potential facilities.
3. Perry Hauge Log Church Preservation Association, Inc. – The Association has maintained the Hauge Log church since 1966, with its volunteer members providing labor and financial contributions for care of the log church site. It is recommended that the Town discuss with the Association potential future involvement of the Association in providing Park District maintenance and/or future park development.

C. Future Open Space and Recreation Plan and Related Planning Activities

The Town of Perry Open Space Plan will require periodic review and amendment in light of changing conditions and the experience gained during its implementation. To accomplish this, it is recommended that the Town's existing Open Space Planning Committee be established as a permanent committee for purposes of plan implementation and to provide an annual review. It is further recommended that the Open Space Committee conduct a major re-evaluation every five years to reassess the needs of the Town and to assure that those needs are being met.

It is recommended that the Town's Land Use Committee, during their various review processes, consider this Plan and the public survey results for possible incorporation into the Town Land

Use Plan. It is further recommended that the Land Use Committee consider alternate compensation programs for the protection of views, vistas and farmlands.

It is also recommended that the Town's Historic Preservation Commission review this Plan and consider possible areas of cooperation with the Open Space Committee.

D. Grant Opportunities

The Open Space Committee recommends that the Town proceed with the preparation and application for capital funding for acquisition of the properties within the Hauge Historic District. It is suggested that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Program and the Dane County Parks Department's Conservation Fund are likely sources for such funding.

Appendices

A. Maps:

Town of Perry Open Space Map
Biking and Hiking Trails Map

B. Town of Perry Open Space Questionnaire results

C. Copy of Town of Perry Letter and Open Space Questionnaire

D. Summary of Zoning Changes 1989-2001

Town of Perry Parks and Open Space Plan

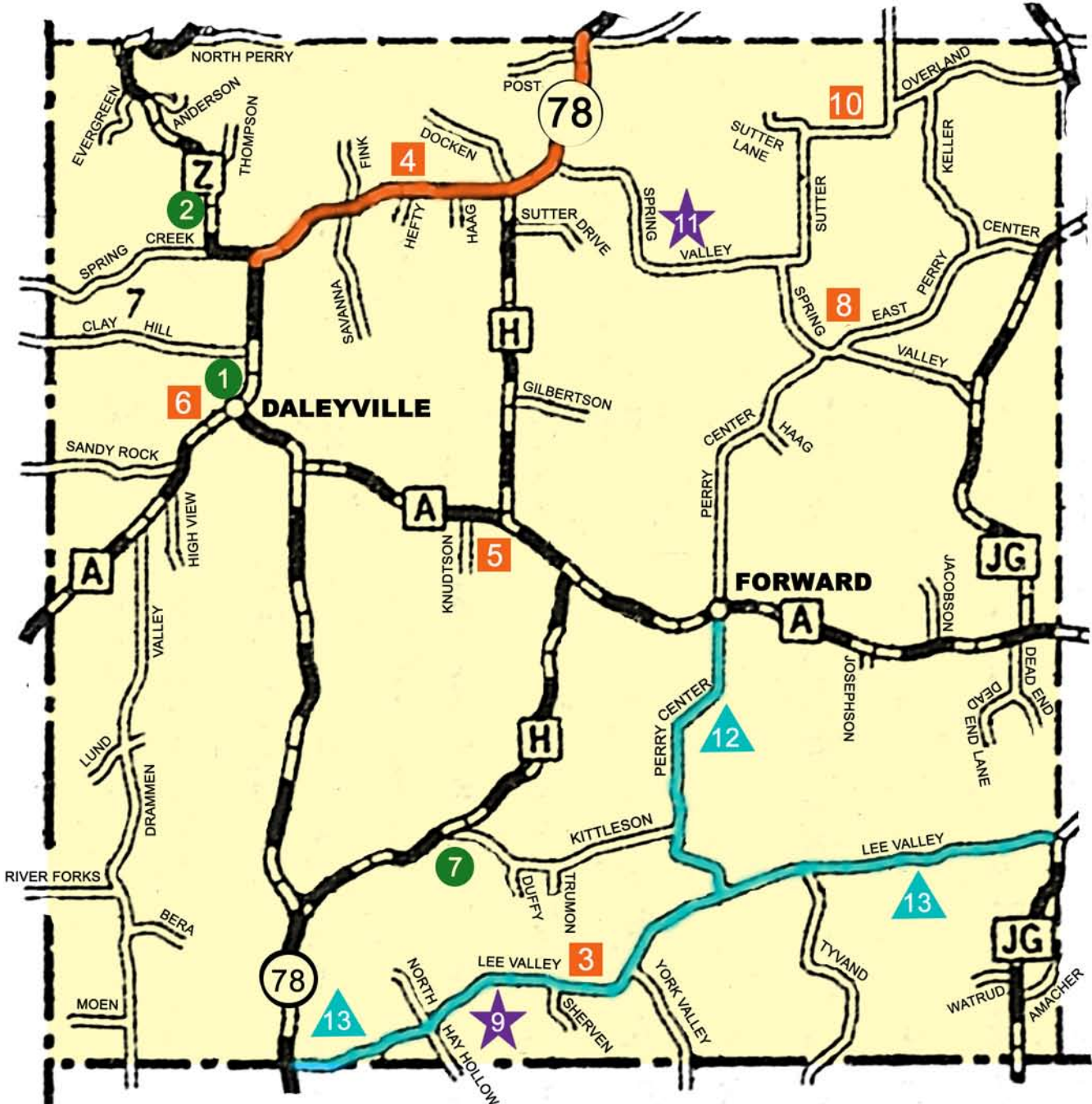
APPENDIX A1

 Parks and Open Space

 Views and Vistas

 Scenic Drives and Roads


 Points of Interest




 Daleyville Park


 Hauge Historic District Park

 View from Lee Valley Road

 Highway 78 Scenic Drive Views


 View from the Second Hauge Cemetery


 View from the Perry Church, Daleyville

 Kittleson Valley Creek Bank Easement

 View from Perry Center and Spring Valley Roads

 Lee Valley Cemetery

 View North from Sutter Road

 Spring Valley Drive Cemetery

 Perry Center Road Scenic Drive

 Lee Valley Road Scenic Drive

Town of Perry Parks and Open Space Plan

APPENDIX A2

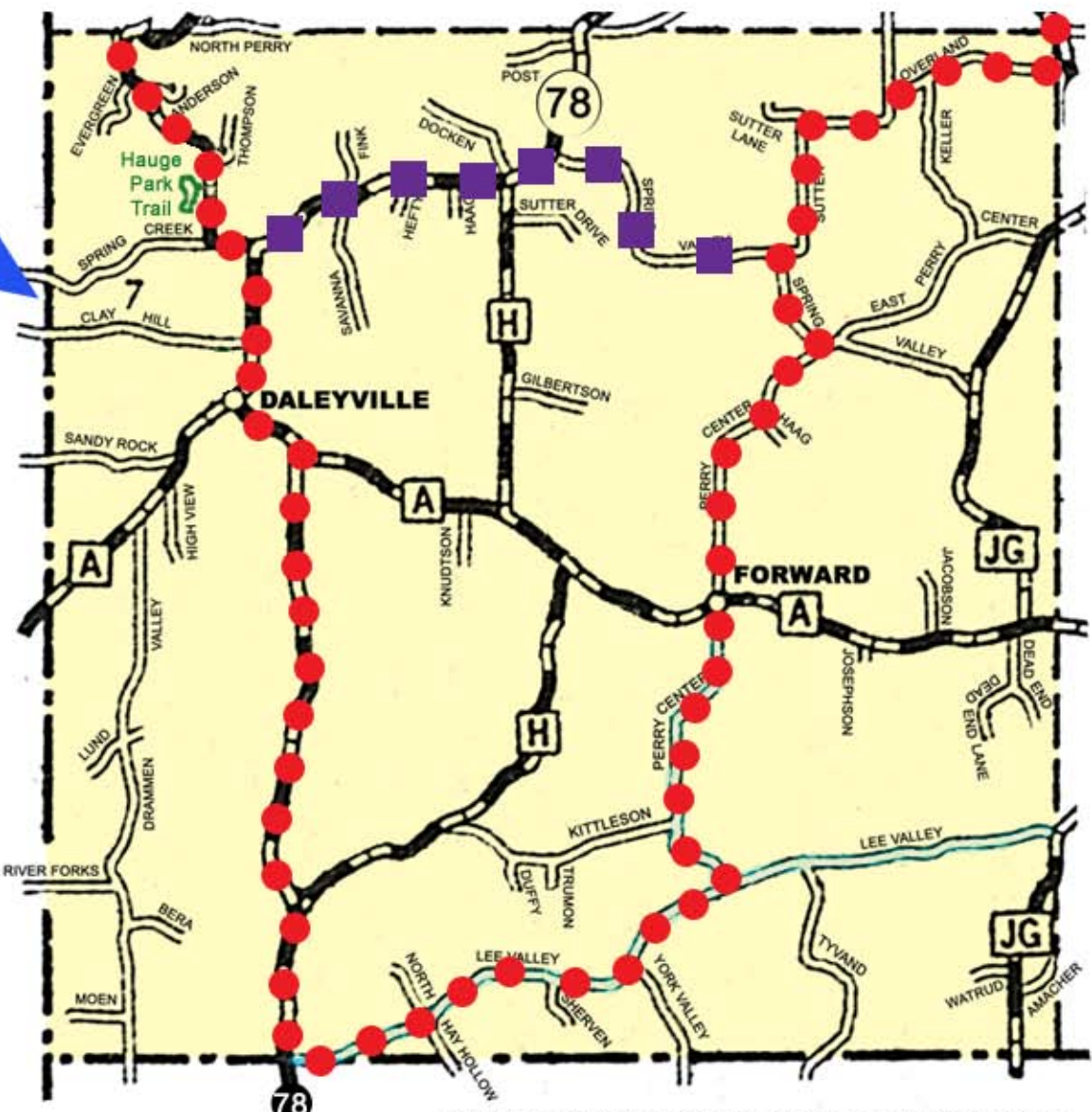
Proposed Bike Routes and Trails



Proximity to the Military Ridge Trail

Bike Routes

- Primary
- Alternate
- Trails



Town of Perry Parks and Open Space Plan

Appendix B

Town Resident Questionnaire Results

Number of questionnaires mailed: 290 Number returned: 73 Response rate: 25.2%

Describe your favorite features of the Town of Perry:

Feature	Number of Responses	Percent of Responses
Views and vistas	15	18.1%
Scenic beauty	10	12.0%
Varieties of landscape	10	12.0%
Absence of habitation	10	12.0%
Quiet rural quality	6	7.2%
Streams	5	6.0%
Open spaces	3	3.6%
Rock outcroppings	3	3.6%
Abundance of wildlife	2	2.4%
Lack of commercialization	2	2.4%
Two-lane roads	2	2.4%
Distance from cities	2	2.4%
The people that live here	2	2.4%
Natural vegetation	2	2.4%
Prairie/Oak savannas	1	1.2%
Daleyville	1	1.2%
No features specified	7	8.4%
	=====	=====
Total number of responses	83	100.0%

Identify your favorite scenic drives, views and vistas, environmental, or historical features found in the Town of Perry:

Feature	Number of Responses	Percent of Responses
Hauge historic site	20	22.0%
Lee Valley Road	13	14.3%
Highway 78 North of Daleyville	10	11.0%
Views of Blue Mounds	6	6.6%
Perry Center Road	6	6.6%
Spring Valley Road	4	4.4%
Sutter Road	4	4.4%
Highway Z	4	4.4%
View from the Perry Church in Daleyville	4	4.4%
Highway A	2	2.2%
Drammen Valley Road	1	1.1%
Highway H	1	1.1%
Highway JG	1	1.1%
Tyvand Road	1	1.1%
Clay Hill Road	1	1.1%
Lee Valley cemetery	1	1.1%
Stone houses in Daleyville	1	1.1%
Perry town hall	1	1.1%
Wetlands	1	1.1%
No feature specified	9	9.9%
	=====	=====
Total number of responses	91	100.0%

What are your favorite outdoor recreational activities? Which of these activities would you like to see encouraged in the Town of Perry?

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Responses</u>
Hiking	19	26.4%
Biking	11	15.3%
Hunting	7	9.7%
Cross country skiing	7	9.7%
Fishing	5	6.9%
Horseback riding	3	4.2%
Golf	2	2.8%
Viewing wildlife and birds	2	2.8%
Prairie restorations	2	2.8%
Camping	2	2.8%
Making hay	1	1.4%
Fixing fences	1	1.4%
Walking the dog	1	1.4%
Working outdoors	1	1.4%
Softball	1	1.4%
Sand volleyball	1	1.4%
Picnicing	1	1.4%
Perry Church	1	1.4%
Motorcycling	1	1.4%
Country drives	1	1.4%
Snowmobiling	1	1.4%
Gardening	1	1.4%
No activity specified	4	5.6%
	=====	=====
	72	100.0%

What specific features in the Town of Perry do you feel are most at risk?

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Responses</u>
Farmland	11	16.2%
Scenic views	10	14.7%
Ridge tops	8	11.8%
The Hauge Church	7	10.3%
The Town's rural character	6	8.8%
Open spaces	4	5.9%
Dark nights	4	5.9%
Becoming too populated	2	2.9%
Wildlife habitat	2	2.9%
Urban sprawl	1	1.5%
Oak savannas	1	1.5%
Steep slopes	1	1.5%
Historical sites	1	1.5%
Wooded areas	1	1.5%
Privacy	1	1.5%
Native plants	1	1.5%
No feature specified	7	10.3%
	=====	=====
	68	100.0%

Which of the following natural resources are important to you? Please rank 1-8, where #1 is most important and #8 is least important.

<u>Natural Resource</u>	----- Importance -----								<u>Average</u>		
	(most)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>8</u>	(least)
Wooded areas		6	4	6	5	2	3	4	2		3.875
Grasslands (prairies, oak savanna)		1	7	5	3	7	6	0	4		4.394
Hilltops, ridge tops, and steep slopes		9	1	3	5	5	6	3	0	Number	3.813
Stream banks, drainage ways, springs		4	3	6	7	3	6	5	0	of	4.176
Farmland		5	5	0	5	6	3	4	4	responses	4.469
Wildlife habitat		6	4	6	3	3	6	3	2		4.000
Geologically unique areas		3	7	6	1	2	0	7	4		4.333
Wetlands		0	2	1	4	5	2	4	14		6.250

Town of Perry Parks and Open Space Plan
Appendix C
Town Resident Questionnaire

Describe your favorite features of the Town of Perry:

Identify your favorite scenic drives, views and vistas, environmental or historical features found in the Town of Perry:

What are your favorite outdoor recreational activities? Which of these activities would you like to see encouraged in the Town of Perry?

Which of the following natural resources are most important to you? Please rank 1-8, where #1 is most important and #8 is least important:

- _____ Wooded areas
- _____ Grasslands (prairies, oak savanna)
- _____ Hilltops, ridge tops, and steep slopes
- _____ Stream banks, drainage ways, springs
- _____ Farmland
- _____ Wildlife habitat
- _____ Geologically unique areas
- _____ Wetlands

What specific features in the Town of Perry do you feel are most at risk?

Other comments:

Other Comments:

“Rural character is threatened by each new home. It is imperative to help landowners recognize value through means other than selling parcels. Land trusts, transfer of development rights, co-operative buying, encouraging young farmers through economic benefits, and financial planning that helps plan for a future without selling”

“The Town should try to maintain a diversity of wildlife, habitats, and open spaces. Avoid housing development like that occurring in Green County.”

“Although we feel preservation of our natural resources are important, we feel any future plans and policies should be sensitive to landowner’s rights.”

“My family and I would like to see this area preserved as a farming community with limited housing development. It is by far one of the most beautiful areas in the state. Lets work to keep it that way.”

“Guide development to have the least impact on all of the above important features. There is room for both preservation and development.”

“Being new to Perry I think the place is fantastic and wonderful!”

“My hope is that most of our residents will recognize the importance of preserving these assets for future generations. This questionnaire is a great start.”

“Too many new homes built either on prime farmland or in the middle of prime woodland habitat.”

“I wish the old Forward store was back in business again. Its unsightly with all the vans/junk in front of it.”

“New houses should not come with extensive exterior lights, at night in the country its supposed to be dark.”

“Stop trying to interfere with private property for the benefit of people who don’t want to pay for it themselves.”

“We strongly support efforts to preserve historic sites in the Township.”

“It would be nice to have areas to stop and view our beautiful Township and a system of trails to connect our views, streams, and wild areas. Keep things passive in nature and the active play in Daleyville.”

“Everyone wants the view but eventually the view becomes hilltop houses as far as you can see. Too many lights!”

“We should monitor other Towns’ proactive land use ordinances and try to incorporate the best in our own plan.”

Town of Perry
 Zoning Changes Approved
 1989 thru 2001
 Summary

Year	Total RH Parcels created	Total Other Zoning
2001	5	1
2000	3	0
1999	3	1
1998	12	2
1997	2	1
1996	6	1
1995	7	0
1994	10	1
1993	7	2
1992	7	0
1991	3	0
1990	1	3
1989	1	2
	67	14
	Average = 5	Average = 1