

**CITY OF COLUMBUS  
PLAN COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.  
COLUMBUS CITY HALL - 105 N DICKASON BLVD  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Notice of open meeting
4. Approve Agenda
5. Approve Minutes
6. Citizens Comments
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
  - a) Review and Discuss proposed amendments to Zoning Code
  - b) Review and Discuss the initial draft of Chapter 2 of the Columbus Compressive Plan
9. Adjourn

**Next meeting:** Regular Plan Commission meeting Thursday January 20, 2018

**Notice:** It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information; no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice

**CITY OF COLUMBUS  
PLAN COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.  
COLUMBUS CITY HALL - 105 N DICKASON BLVD  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MINUTES**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thom at 6:38
2. Roll Call – Hansen, Theilen, Monday, Parpart, Robbins, Thom and Zapotocny were present.
3. Notice of open meeting – Meeting was noticed in accordance with applicable State and Local laws
4. Approve Agenda – Motion by Zapotocny and a second by Robbins to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 7-0.
5. Approve Minutes – Motion by Zapotocny and a second by Hansen to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 7-0
6. Citizens Comments – No Comments were made
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
  - a) Review and Discuss the initial draft of Chapter 1 of the Columbus Comprehensive Plan

Schreiber reviewed the initial draft of Chapter 1 for the city's comprehensive plan. The chapter included a brief history of the City of Columbus and looked at demographic data for the City. The demographics looked at population, age distribution, educational levels and income for the City compared to other locations, primarily to Columbia County and Wisconsin. The review of the demographics considered the past trends and what it means for Columbus in the future.

No action was taken on the draft chapter and the Plan Commission will review a final draft of Chapter 1 before it is recommended for approval.

9. Adjourn – Motion by Parpart and a second by Zapotocny to adjourn the meeting at 7:26

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Schreiber, Secretary

# 2019 AGENDA ITEM

Committee of the Whole Meeting date: Jan 15, 2019

Council Meeting date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM: 11. Review and discuss ordinances related to the Zoning Administrator and the permit approval process**

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER:**

On Tuesday January 8, 2019 city staff met with GEC to discuss how the city would work with the building inspector. As a result of that meeting it is recommended that the city should issue Zoning Permits for any development in the City.

Per 114-49 of our code all development requires a certificate of zoning compliance from the zoning administrator before a development can occur. The previous building inspector did review site plans for zoning compliance. However, there is not an application form or fee schedule to obtain a zoning permit.

If the council chooses to move forward with the change, the Plan Commission will hold a public hearing and recommend approval at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Then Council could approve the changes at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There are a few tasks that need to be completed to implement this change:

1. Pass an ordinance changing the Zoning Administrator
2. Create an application form for a Zoning Permit
3. Consider a fee structure for the Zoning Permit Application

I have discussed this with the City Attorney and he has prepared draft ordinance that has been included in your packet.

I will have a similar meeting with the Plan Commission on the January 17 to discuss these issues.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL: Review and discuss ordinances related to the Zoning Administrator and the permit approval process**

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**

**ORDINANCE No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND RECREATE SECTION 2-87 AND SECTION 114-47 OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS CODE OF ORDINANCES**

The Common Council of the City of Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

1. Sec. 2-87. – Appointed Officials is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-87. – Appointed Officials.** The appointed officials of the city shall be the following and shall be appointed as indicated and serve the terms indicated.

<b>Official</b>	<b>How Appointed</b>	<b>Term</b>
Building inspector	By common council	Indefinite
Chief of police	Police and fire commission	Indefinite
City administrator	By common council	Indefinite
City assessor	By common council	3 Years
City attorney	By common council	Indefinite
City clerk	Mayor, subject to confirmation by the council	Indefinite
City treasurer	Mayor, subject to confirmation by the council	Indefinite
Emergency government director	By common council	Indefinite
Fire chief	Police and fire commission	Indefinite
Health officer	By common council	Indefinite
Superintendent of water and light	Water and light commission, subject to confirmation by the common council	Indefinite
Zoning Administrator	By common council	Indefinite

2. Sec. 114-47. is hereby repealed and recreated to now read as follows:

**Sec. 114-47. – Appointment of Zoning Administrator.** The Council shall appoint a Zoning Administrator, who shall have the power and duty to enforce the provisions of this Chapter 114 and, as provided therein, Chapter 46, Flood Plain Regulations of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances.

3. If any portion of this Ordinance or its application on any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any other provision herein or its application shall not be affected.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication or posting, as required by law.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Thom, Mayor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Goebel, Interim Clerk

Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Published on: \_\_\_\_\_

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This element provides an assessment of the City of Columbus agricultural, natural, and cultural resources and contains information required under SS66.1001. Information includes: productive agricultural areas, a natural resource inventory, and a cultural resource inventory. This information provides a basis for creating goals, objectives, policies, maps, and actions to guide the future development and maintenance of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources in the City of Columbus.

### **Previous Planning Efforts**

#### *Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan*

The Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan is the County's State-certified farmland Preservation plan under Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative (Chapter 91 of Wisconsin Statutes). The Plan focuses on Columbia County's land use planning and zoning approach to farmland preservation. This Plan identifies farmland preservation areas and also accommodates compatible growth in planned locations, forms, and densities.

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Creek Storm Water Flooding and Alternative Analysis*

Flooding events that occurred in Columbus during the late 2000's negatively impacted many properties along the 2nd Ward Creek corridor in the City of Columbus. During this time several high water events have exacerbated the storm water problems which include flooded streets and homes.

In September of 2010, the City hired Ruekert Mielke to conduct a study of the storm water concerns along 2nd Ward Creek from the upstream reach at the corporate boundary to the confluence with the Crawfish River. The study was to quantify known storm water related problems, analyze alternatives to reduce the frequency and magnitude of the problems, and develop a recommended plan.

#### *Fireman's Park Storm Water Analysis and Recommendations*

In 2017 the City of Columbus hired Ruekert Mielke to examine storm sewer infrastructure located within Fireman's Park. The need from the study arose from concerns that existing storm sewer pipe that extends from south to north across Fireman's Park had partially collapsed causing sink holes above ground and restricting pipe capacity. The purpose of this report was to identify issues with the existing storm water infrastructure and provide possible alternatives for remediation. The report considered a few alternatives to replace infrastructure and alleviate storm water concerns.

#### *After Action Review - Flood of June 2008*

The after action review documents the flood event that happened in 2008. The review documents how the city successfully responded to the flooding event and identifies ways to improve the response to a flooding disaster.

*Columbia County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*

The Columbia County Land and Water Resource Management Plan provides a detailed review and assessment of all Columbia County's natural resource issues. Which includes a review of the county's major surface water resources including location, description and assessment is provided. This plan also makes recommendations based on local trends and identifies methods to integrate resource protection and management effectively.

**Agricultural Resources***Agricultural Trends*

Farm numbers within Columbia County are on the decline and remaining farms are shrinking in land base each year. Animal numbers related to dairy farms are on the decline opening the door for more cash grain operations. The face of agriculture is changing in Columbia County. Pressures related to low milk prices, tight profit margins, competition for land (agricultural, residential and recreational) and off-farm labor opportunities are all part of the mix.

Columbia County has 1,526 farms with an average size of 228 Acres. There are 211 dairy farms, over 500 beef, sheep and hog farms plus everything from large cash grain operations of 500-1000 acres to 5-10 acre fresh market vegetable producers. Collectively farmers own and manage 348,396 acres of land within the county. Field crops, dairy, cattle and calves, poultry products and vegetables are primary commodities in Columbia County. Horticulture is growing in Columbia County. Sand and muck soils found in the Wisconsin and Fox River systems support commercial vegetable and mint production. High quality prairie soils in the southern and northeastern parts of the County put the area in the top 10 for corn and soybean production. Evidence of this, perhaps, is the efforts of local farmers who organized the United Wisconsin Grain Producers, Inc., to build Wisconsin's fourth ethanol plant near Friesland in the northeast corner of the county. Columbia County currently has 3 livestock operations that exceed 1000 animal units and are permitted under a WDNR WPDES permit.

Agriculture is big business in Columbia County. It has an overall \$672 million dollar annual impact. Agriculture provides 5,312 jobs in Columbia County, which is 18% of the workforce. For every new dollar of agricultural income, an additional \$1.07 of county income is generated. Dairy is the largest part of Columbia County agriculture. Providing for a strong dairy future in Columbia County is not only financially important but also is important for the utilization of forages in crop rotations and resulting soil erosion implications.

Wind Farm interest has grown in Columbia County over the last several years. One wind farm is under construction in the NE portion of the County with interest growing in other portions of the County. Balancing the role wind power generation will play in the rural landscape will be an important issue over the next decade in Columbia County.

The future of dairy and livestock production in Columbia County will depend on our ability to manage demand for agricultural land and our ability to provide adequate land base to address phosphorous-based nutrient management into the future.

### Tables

- Farms and Land in Farms
- Farm Size
- Number of Farms by NAICS

### Agricultural Resource Inventory

- Productive Ag Areas

## **LAND RESOURCES**

### *Geography and Topography*

The entire county is underlain with Precambrian bedrock of which is igneous or metamorphic. Some bedrock outcrop through the Cambrian layer of sandstone, siltstone, shale and dolomite can also be found. Preglacial, glacial and postglacial erosion formed the bedrock topography surface. Most of the bedrock valleys were part of a preglacial drainage system.

The bedrock surface ranges from about 500 feet above sea level in some valleys, to about 1,400 feet above sea level, west of the Wisconsin River. Bedrock valleys that underlay and control present surface drainage are filled with drift that form important aquifers. The drift is largely glacial sediment laid down by the Green Bay lobe during Wisconsin Glaciation, but they also include some alluvium and marsh deposits. Distinctive landforms (end moraine, ground moraine, outwash and lake plains) resulting from glaciation are composed of sediment types determined by their mode of deposition.

The topography of Columbia County generally consists of a ground moraine with gentle slopes. The valleys of Neenah Creek and the Fox River occupy an area of glacial lake deposits characteristically broad and flat. Land surface elevations vary from the Baraboo area west of the Wisconsin River (elev. 1200-1400 feet) to the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac (elev. 740 feet). The divide that separates the Wisconsin River and Rock River Watershed is 1,000 feet to 1,150 feet above sea level. Source- UW Extension

### *Soils*

The St. Charles, Ossian, Dodge Association comprises about 15 percent of the County's area, which includes the City of Columbus. It generally occurs in the southern and eastern portions of the County. The soils in this association are characterized as well drained, moderately well drained, and poorly well drained silty soils that have a silty subsoil and are underlain by sandy loam glacial till or silty sediment. These soils are well suited for crops. Generally the St. Charles and Dodge soils in this association are

suitable for onsite sewage disposal and basements. The Ossian soils in this association are not suitable for onsite sewage disposal and basements because of a high water table.

### *Forests and Woodlands*

Forest and woodlands provide a variety of beneficial functions when properly managed. They contribute to clean air and water; regulating surface water runoff; and the woodlands contribute to the maintenance of a diversity of plant and animal life in association with human life. The removal of woodlands can contribute to storm water runoff, the siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat. Woodlands should be maintained for a variety of reasons including: scenery, wildlife habitat, education, recreation, and air and water quality protection.

According to the Columbia County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, Forested land comprises about 98,000 acres or approximately 19% of the land area of Columbia County. The major cover type in the county is oak-hickory which comprises 66,300 acres. The woodlands in Columbia County are threatened not only by increasing development pressures, but also by insect pests, exotics, and disease. Columbia County is currently under gypsy moth quarantine for all lumber products.

Tree City USA is a national recognition program that began in 1976 and is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. By meeting four fundamental standards, an incorporated municipality of any size can qualify. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. The City of Columbus was designated as a Tree City USA Community in 2005.

### *Metallic and Non-Metallic Mineral Resources*

Mineral resources are divided into two categories, metallic and non-metallic resources. Metallic resources include lead and zinc. Nonmetallic resources include sand, gravel, and limestone. In June of 2001, all Wisconsin counties were obliged to adopt an ordinance for nonmetallic mine reclamation. The purpose of the ordinance is to achieve acceptable final site reclamation to an approved post-mining land use in compliance with uniform reclamation standards. Uniform reclamation standards address environmental protection measures including topsoil salvage and storage, surface and groundwater protection, and concurrent reclamation to minimize acreage exposed to wind and water erosion. After reclamation, many quarries become possible sites for small lakes or landfills. Identification of quarry operations is necessary in order to minimize nuisance complaints by neighboring uses and to identify areas that may have additional transportation needs related to trucking. There is one quarry within the within the City of Columbus, which is Michael's Materials Corporation quarry that is located on Hwy 60.

## WATER RESOURCES

### *Groundwater*

Groundwater is a critical natural resource in Wisconsin. Approximately Fifteen to thirty percent of the precipitation we get in Wisconsin each year seeps into the ground and recharges our aquifers. The daily recharge is calculated at 14 billion gallons per day. It is estimated that there is enough groundwater underground to cover Wisconsin to a depth of 30 feet. Despite this seemingly inexhaustible supply, there are growing concerns about both the quality and quantity of groundwater. For example, groundwater quality may be impacted by any of a variety of activities, including leaking underground storage tanks, landfills, septic systems, over-application of pesticides and fertilizers, and spills of hazardous chemicals. The most common contaminants found in Wisconsin groundwater are nitrate-nitrogen, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and pesticides. Nitrate comes from a multitude of sources including nitrogen-based fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste storage, feedlots, municipal and industrial wastewater discharges and sludge disposal. Some examples of VOCs are gasoline and industrial solvents, paints, paint thinners, stain removers and drain cleaners. Pesticides reach groundwater from land application, spills, misuse or improper storage and disposal.

Groundwater is the only source of drinking water in Columbus. It is a critical resource, not only because it is used by residents as their source of water, but also because surface waters depend on it to recharge. Groundwater contamination is most likely to occur where fractured bedrock is near ground surface, or where only a thin layer of soil separates the ground surface from the water table. According to the Wisconsin DNR Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility Model, Columbus generally ranks high to high-medium for susceptibility to groundwater contamination. Susceptibility to groundwater contamination is determined based on five physical resource characteristics: Bedrock Depth, Bedrock Type, Soil Characteristics, Superficial Deposits, and Water Table Depth.

Groundwater can be contaminated through both point and non-point source pollution (NPS). The Environmental Protection Agency defines them as:

- Non-Point Source - Pollution which occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into ground water.
- Point Source - Sources of pollution that can be traced back to a single point, such as a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant discharge pipe.

The National Water Quality Assessment shows that NPS pollution remains leading source of water quality problems. The most common NPS pollutants are sediment (erosion, construction) and nutrients (farming, lawn care).

Columbia County has been experiencing increasing problems with nitrate levels and atrazine. Agriculture is the primary source of these problems because nitrates are found in fertilizer and atrazine is a potent pesticide. In order to reduce levels of atrazine found in the groundwater, Columbia County has identified

six Atrazine prohibition areas, equaling about 80,000 acres. The City of Columbus does not fall within an Atrazine prohibition area.

### *Surface water*

The City of Columbus is part of two watersheds. The northwest portion of the city is located within the Upper Crawfish River Watershed, and the southwest area lies within the Lower Crawfish River Watershed. The boundary of the watersheds generally follows Lewis Street, Charles Street and Western Avenue through Columbus. Both of these watersheds are drain into Mississippi River via the Rock River. The Crawfish River is the primary waterway in the both watersheds that cover Columbus. Other waterways within these watersheds that impact Columbus include Robbins Creek, and Second Ward Creek.

In order to protect public rights in navigable waters, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been given authority in Chapters 30 and 31 of the Wisconsin Statutes to issue permits affecting all navigable waters of the state. Navigable waters are waterways that have a defined bed and bank (i.e., a bottom or channel) and enough water to regularly support the smallest recreational watercraft on an annual recurring basis, including periods of high runoff. Public navigable waters are distinguished by the “ordinary high water mark,” which distinguishes lands held in trust by the public from private lands. For some activities, the ordinary high water mark delineates the waterward limits of local zoning authority and the landward limits of WDNR water regulation permit authority.

### *Outstanding and Exceptional Waters*

Wisconsin has classified many of the State’s highest quality waters as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) or Exceptional Resource Waters (ERWs). Waters designated as ORW or ERW are surface waters that provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries, have unique hydrologic or geologic features, have unique environmental settings, and are not significantly impacted by human activities. The primary difference between the two is that ORW’s typically do not have any direct point sources discharging pollutants directly to the water. An ORW or ERW designation does not include water quality criteria like a use designation. Instead, it is a label that identifies waters the State has identified that warrant additional protection from the effects of pollution. These designations are intended to meet federal Clean Water Act obligations requiring Wisconsin to adopt an “antidegradation” policy that is designed to prevent any lowering of water quality. There are no ORWs or ERWs within the City of Columbus. The Columbus Mill Pond has been designated as Priority Navigable Waterway because it is a lake that is smaller than 50 acres.

### *Impaired Waters*

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to develop a list of impaired waters. This list identifies waters that are not meeting water quality standards, including both water quality criteria for specific substances or the designated uses, and is used as the basis for development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). States are required to submit a list of impaired waters to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval every two years. These waters are listed within

Wisconsin's 303(d) Waterbody Program and are managed by the WDNR's Bureau of Watershed Management. The Columbus Mill Pond and Crawfish River have been identified as impaired waters. The Mill Pond has a fish consumption advisory due to high levels of polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs). The segment of the Crawfish River from the Udey Dam to its headwaters is identified as impaired waters due to higher than permitted phosphorus levels in the water. (Source: WDNR)

### *Floodplain*

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the City of Columbus. To mitigate the impact of flooding it requires sound land use planning. Floodplains serve many important functions related to flood and erosion control. For example, floodplains provide areas where floodwaters are stored, reduce flood velocities, reduce flood peaks, and reduce sedimentation. Floodplains also provide important functions related to ground water recharge, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality. Floodplains are natural extensions of waterways and flooding is a natural physical event. When buildings are constructed in the floodplain, the floodplain's storage capacity is reduced. This causes the next flood of equal intensity to crest higher than the previous event and could inundate areas outside the historic floodplain. The other functions of floodplains can also be lost by allowing construction within a floodplain.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplain areas. A flood is defined as a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas. The area inundated during a flood event is called the floodplain. The floodplain includes the floodway, the flood fringe, and other flood-affected areas. The floodway is the channel of a river and the adjoining land needed to carry the 100-year flood discharge.

Because the floodway is characterized by rapidly moving and treacherous water, development is severely restricted in a floodway. The flood fringe, which is landward of the floodway, stores excess floodwater until it can be infiltrated or discharged back into the channel. During a regional flood event, also known as the 100-year, one-percent, or base flood, the entire floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is inundated to a height called the regional flood elevation (RFE).

Floodplain zoning applies to counties, cities and villages. Wisconsin State Statute requires that each county, city and village shall zone, by ordinance, all lands subject to flooding. In addition, Wisconsin Administrative Code requires all communities to adopt reasonable and effective floodplain zoning ordinances within their respective jurisdictions to regulate all floodplains where serious flood damage may occur within one year after hydraulic and engineering data adequate to formulate the ordinance

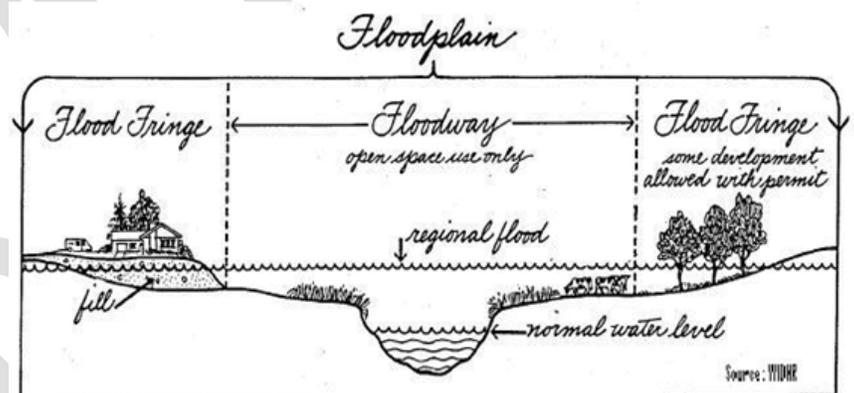


Figure 1 Floodplain Diagram

becomes available. Refer to the City of Columbus Floodplain regulations, which may be found in Chapter 46 of the Municipal Code.

Floodplain areas generally contain important elements of the natural resource base such as woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat; therefore, they constitute prime locations necessary for park, recreation, and open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage incompatible urban development of floodplains and to encourage Compatible Park, recreation, and open space uses.

### *Wetlands*

The state of Wisconsin defines a wetland as an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions. Wetlands generally occur in low-lying areas and near the bottom of slopes, particularly along lakeshores and stream banks, and on large land areas that are poorly drained. Wetlands are a critical natural resource that functions in several ways that are beneficial to both people and wildlife. Wetlands accomplish important natural functions, including:

- ❖ Provides habitat for a wide variety of plants, fish and wildlife
- ❖ Reduction in storm water runoff by providing areas for floodwater storage
- ❖ Function as a water filtration system by recycling nutrients and purifying the water.
- ❖ Protection of shorelines from erosion
- ❖ Provides groundwater recharge areas, includes the potential for wetland vegetation to filter storm water which would protect groundwater quality.
- ❖ Provides groundwater discharge areas which can stabilize lake levels and stream flows
- ❖ Provides ample educational and recreational activities

Wetlands are not conducive to development due to the erosive character, high compressibility and instability, low bearing capacity, and high shrink-swell potential of wetland soils, as well as the associated high water table. If wetlands are ignored in land use planning and development, those limitations may result in flooding, wet basements, unstable foundations, failing pavement, and excessive infiltration of clear water into sanitary sewers. In addition, there are significant onsite preparation and maintenance costs associated with the development of wetland soils, particularly as related to roads, foundations, and public utilities.

Recognizing the important natural functions of wetlands, continued efforts should be made to protect these areas by discouraging costly, both in monetary and environmental terms, wetland draining, filling, and urbanization. The Wisconsin DNR and the US Army Corp of Engineers require mitigation when natural wetland sites are destroyed.

### *Threatened or Endangered Species*

### *Environmentally Sensitive Areas*

Environmentally sensitive areas are usually defined by the local jurisdiction and often include many of the areas referred to in this section such as special groundwater protection areas, threatened or endangered species habitat, floodplains, wetlands and other unique or special resources where encroachment or development could have negative consequences. The City of Columbus has adopted a Wellhead Protection Overlay District. The purpose of the district is to limit development within 1200 feet of municipal wellhead(s) to such uses that are compatible with protection of the public works supply.

Contaminated or potentially contaminated sites are another item that could fall under the environmentally sensitive areas designation. These are sites that have been identified by the DNR and need monitoring to prevent further environmental degradation or hazard to human life. The Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) is the DNR's on-line database that provides information about contaminated properties and other activities related to the investigation and cleanup of contaminated soil or groundwater in Wisconsin. The BRRTS database identifies 6 open sites in Columbus in need of clean up or where cleanup is still underway. The database also identifies 103 closed sites where investigation and cleanup of the contamination has been completed and DNR has approved all cleanup actions.

### **Cultural Resources**

#### **State and National Register of Historic Places**

##### ***Historic Commercial District***

The Columbus Historic Commercial District was listed on the National Register of Historic Place on March 5, 1992. There are 77 structures in the district, 63 of these contribute to its historic status. The business district was formed due to the proximity to fertile farmland, proximity to critical high and the railroad which came to Columbus in 1857.

These historic buildings are mostly cream brick with and of Italianate or Commercial Vernacular style. The unified impression is in part attributable to two builders; a master carpenter, Richard VanAken, and a master mason, Henry Boelte.

##### ***Dickason BLVD district***

##### ***Prairie Street District***

***Dix/Warner Street District – Mid Century District only other district is in Milwaukee***

#### **Architecture and History Inventory (AHI)**

#### **Archaeological Sites Inventory**

### *Wisconsin Historical Markers*

Wisconsin State Historical Markers tell the stories about events, individuals, buildings, or sites of local, state, or national significance that contribute to our state's rich historical heritage. The markers are permanent, outdoor plaques located near the place where something significant occurred. The Wisconsin Historical Markers Program is administered by Local History-Field Services, Office of Programs and Outreach, Wisconsin Historical Society. There is one registered historical marker located within the City of Columbus. The marker is about Governor James Taylor Lewis and is located at the intersection of West James St and South Charles St.

### **Museums**

- Christopher Columbus Museum
- Historical Society

### **Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission**

### **Local History**

#### Goals

#### Objectives

#### Policies

- Consider Policies, Programs, and Actions for Urban Transition Areas from the County Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Consider Policies from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Creek Study
- Consider recommendation from Fireman's Park Report

#### Sources:

Wisconsin DNR Floodplain and Shoreland Zoning Guidebook

Columbia County UW Extension

Columbia County Comprehensive Plan

Wisconsin DNR

Columbia County Land and Water Management Plan

Wisconsin Historical Society