

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Preservation of historic, archeological, cultural and scenic resources in the Town of Richmond will foster a sense of pride in the community, improve quality of life, contribute to the preservation of rural character, encourage low-impact tourism and provide an important feeling of social and cultural continuity between the past, present and future.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

In 1983, the Wisconsin State Historical Society compiled a historic resources list of historic sites in Wisconsin communities. The historic resources list for Richmond does not include any historic sites that are listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. It does include archeological sites that are included in the Wisconsin Archeological Site Inventory database and many historic sites identified through local historical groups, newspaper stories and other resources. Since the list was created, many resources may have been moved, lost or changed.

Using the historic resources list as a starting point, the Richmond Plan Commission members identified additional sites using local residents, historic documents and other state resources, such as the Century Farm and Home and Sesquicentennial programs. Much of the information was gathered during the development of the Community Background section. A final listing of Richmond's historic resources is identified below. Please note that some sites are not specifically identified to provide protection for the resource and property owners from trespassing, sight-seeing and looting.

- The Richmond Town Hall, also known as the Boardman School, Boardman, built in 1927, CTHs A and 100th Street, west side, Section 19. Colonial revival, brick structure.
- Boardman Cemetery, CTH A, Section 20.
- Fred & Ruth Ball Century Farm, 1133 130th Ave., established 1874, 136 years, Section 33.
- Ted & Kristi Casey Century Farm, 1578 STH 65, established 1893, 117, Section 15.
- House, 1496 CTH G & 140th St., northeast quarter of Section 23.
- Farmstead, 1454 160th Ave., East of 140th Street, Section 12.
- Former Early Farm, CTH GG, Section 1.
- Former Nigarten Barn, 1294 130th Ave. at intersection with 150th St., Section 36.
- Former Henry E. Joyce Farmstead, 1664 STH 65, Section 10. Queen Anne, clapboard structure used as a single-family home. Built in 1900. Moved to Town of Somerset.
- Two-story cube house, formerly on STH 65 and CTH G, Section 23 moved to Stone Run Estates on 134th Ave. in Section 26.
- Front and side-gabled house, 1397 CTH A, east side in Boardman, Section 30. Formerly the Anna Mondor house.
- Side-gabled house, 1411 CTH A, east side in Boardman, Section 19.
- Four-square house, 1413 CTH A, east side in Boardman, Section 19.
- Side-gabled house, 1415 CTH A, east side in Boardman, Section 19.
- Two-story cube house, 1008 140th Ave., east of CTH A, Section 20.

- Oak Hill School, southeast corner of 130th Ave. and 110th Street, used as a storage shed on the Pat Ball farm, Section 33.
- Clarendon School converted to a single-family home, 1628 95th Street, east side, Section 7.
- Lonesome Trail School, converted to a single-family home, 1034 170th Ave., Section 5.
- Foundations of railroad depot on Chicago Northwestern route, near Boardman east of 100th Street and south of 140th Ave., Section 29.
- Foundations of a dam and flour mill on the Willow River, south of 140th Ave., Sections 19 and 30.

Mapped archeological sites are predominantly burial sites. Under Wisconsin law, Native American burial mounds, unmarked burials and all marked and unmarked cemeteries are protected from intentional disturbance.

The town should make a request to the State Historical Society for more detailed information when a specific development proposal is offered on land in an area where a known historic or archeological site has been mapped, if its location is not readily apparent.

The Town of Richmond should work with the developers, the county and the state to preserve the historic farmsteads, barns and outbuildings that contribute to the town's agricultural heritage, rural character and aesthetic beauty and create a unique community.

Additional historic or archeological resources could be identified in the town through an individual or joint effort to create a countywide survey of historic and archeological resources. The State Historical Society provides survey funding on an annual basis, with applications due in November. There is presently no local match requirement.

HISTORIC RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Once resources are identified, they can be protected through a variety of techniques. One option is listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the State Register of Historic Places programs. There are several benefits that come with being listed, such as eligibility for state and federal income tax credits for rehabilitation, use of a special historic building code and protective negotiations when government-funded or assisted projects (i.e. roads) threaten the resources. They can also be valued elements in tourism.

The "Barn Again!" program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Successful Farming magazine has been a successful and visible program for recognizing, rewarding and encouraging the preservation of historic farm buildings.

Another popular program, the Barns Preservation Initiative, to help owners rehabilitate and preserve Wisconsin's barns was begun in 1994 by the Wisconsin Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin Extension and the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation. This program recognizes the importance of the state's agricultural heritage as embodied in barns, farmhouses, outbuildings and landscapes and has initiated steps to help owners and organizations to preserve and reuse those cultural resources. Workshops that address the preservation of barns have been conducted, informational and technical materials have been prepared, and plans to make additional resources available and to address other rural preservation topics are underway.

Richmond can continue to promote the community's farming heritage by supporting local festivals, fairs, markets, farm tours or farm breakfasts.

SCENIC RESOURCES

Scenic beauty is an important cultural resource in Richmond. There are numerous local areas that offer stunning views of the landscape, landmarks (i.e. hills) and bodies of water. In the following list, various resources and agencies have been consulted and the Town Plan Commission has identified areas of high scenic value where there should be preservation efforts.

**Scenic Resources
Town of Richmond**

SITE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION & SIZE
Anderson Springs	Natural cold water springs that flows into the Willow River. In the past the spring was a popular trout fishing area. Local sport clubs leased access and fenced the spring pond for protection. The spring pond suffers from severe sedimentation and trout stocking ended over 50 years ago. The St. Croix County Sportsmen's Alliance at one time proposed removing the silt to restore the spring pond. Purchase, rehabilitation and improving access would provide another recreational opportunity in the Town.	East ½ of NE ¼ of Section 17 2.5 Acres
Brushy Mound Pond, Wetlands & Beaver Ponds	Small lake with residential development to the east. Heavily wooded area with extensive wetlands complex and wildlife. Beavers are very active and have dammed the water several times. The wetlands usually have standing water, ground is very swampy, and they support a variety of waterfowl. Paperjack Creek runs through this area. Could be a wildlife area, carry-in access for recreation or access and management for hunting.	Section 12, northeast quarter 40 Acres
Paperjack Creek Shorelands	Scenic areas along the Paperjack Creek, both east and west of the City of New Richmond. Areas include undeveloped shorelands, woods and associated wetlands.	Sections 9 & 11
Glens of the Willow River Open Space	Scenic stretch of the Willow River in the Glens of Willow River subdivision. A conservation easement protects the shoreline, two valleys that drain to the Willow and the floodplain. There are also two outlots that provide the subdivision residents with private access to the river. Both sites are connected by 15' wide trail easements that connect the two outlots to each other and to 154 th Avenue, 92 nd Street and 152 nd Avenue.	Section 18 Outlot 1 0.196 Acres Outlot 2 0.12 Acres
Lundy Pond WP/WA	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Area & WI Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Area managed for waterfowl habitat, pheasant habitat and neotropical grassland songbird habitat with ongoing wetland and prairie restoration. Open for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles and horseback riding are not allowed.	Sections 22, 27 & 28 136 Acres Federal 250 Acres State
St. Croix Prairie WPA	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Area managed for waterfowl habitat with ongoing wetland and prairie restoration. Open for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and wildlife observation and photography. US Fish and Wildlife Service office is located on the site and there is also a one-mile loop trail through the prairie. Motorized vehicles and horseback riding are not allowed.	Section 6 78 Acres

SITE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION & SIZE
Ten Mile Creek WPA/WA	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Area & WDNR Wildlife Area managed for waterfowl habitat and upland game with ongoing wetland and prairie restoration. Open for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles and horseback riding are not allowed.	Sections 21, 28 & 29 400 Acres
Three Lakes WPA	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Area managed for waterfowl habitat and pheasant habitat with ongoing wetland and prairie restoration. Open for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and wildlife observation and photography. Motorized vehicles and horseback riding are not allowed.	Section 32 154 Acres (Majority in Warren Township)
Waldroff Meadows Trail	A private trail easement for biking and all terrain vehicles runs through the Waldroff Meadows subdivision.	Section 20
Remnant Prairie Sites	There are several remnant prairie sites in the Town that would be a high priority for protection by the Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area of the WDNR.	Sections 1, 6, 28 & 32
Casey, LaVenture and New Richmond High School Pond	Adjacent to the new New Richmond High School on the south side. This site should be protected and buffered from agricultural use. The immediate watershed could be protected by grassland conservation practices and used as an outdoor classroom for the high school curriculum.	Section 11
140 th Ave.	From Boardman to STH 65 this road has stretches of Ten Mile Creek, US Fish and Wildlife lands, old and new residences and farm fields making it a picturesque and attractive area of the town. A small public fishing access and parking could be provided.	Sections 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29.

Sources: *Heritage Areas of St. Croix County, UW-Extension 1976; Natural Area Inventory, West Central Wisconsin 1976; Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, St. Croix County Parks Department and Town Plan Commission 2010*

SCENIC RESOURCE PROGRAMS

One technique for preservation of scenic views is to require a viewshed analysis at the time of development. Amendments to the community’s subdivision ordinance would be necessary. A viewshed analysis would identify the places from where the new development could be seen from other locations and the impact of the view that would result if development occurred in the manner proposed. New development should be designed, located and landscaped in a manner that does not detract from these scenic views.

A second technique for preservation of scenic views is the state and federal “rustic road” and “scenic byway” programs to preserve and celebrate particularly scenic road corridors. State “rustic roads” designations would be best suited for scenic town roads. To qualify, a roadway must be substantially undeveloped and have outstanding natural features, including native vegetation, abundant wildlife, open areas or agricultural vistas that make the area unique. The federal “scenic byway” program may be best suited for state or county highways. The town should work with the county to explore possibilities, advantages and disadvantages of these programs.

CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

Goal: Enhance and maintain the Town of Richmond's cultural and scenic resources and rural character.

Objectives:

1. Identify and preserve the town's agricultural, cultural, historic, and archeological resources that recognize the community's pre-settlement and early settlement periods.
2. Identify and protect cultural, historic, archeological and scenic resources.
3. Encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and sites in the town.
4. Encourage the preservation of the town's scenic resources.
5. Protect scenic roadways.
6. Work with other units of government to develop and enforce appropriate land use regulations to maintain rural residential quality.
7. Prohibit incompatible land uses from locating within or next to residential areas.

Policies:

1. Cooperate with the State Historical Society, St. Croix County, surrounding communities and local agencies on a comprehensive survey of historic and archeological resources in the town.
2. Maintain an inventory of historic, archaeological and scenic resources.
3. Provide the inventory for reference and discussion before and during consideration of land development proposals.
4. Encourage private landowners to protect and, if necessary, rehabilitate identified cultural, historic, archeological and scenic resources when specific sites are proposed for development.
5. Protect the visual quality of scenic roadways through site planning, driveway location, landscaping, signage and other standards, such as placing driveways along property lines, fencerows or existing vegetation wherever possible.



The Casey Century Farm is one of many historic structures in the Town of Richmond. Photo by Shawn Demulling.

Decrease conflicts between agricultural uses and non-farm uses by directing traffic to alternative routes.

- 6. Support local festivals, fairs, farm tours, farm breakfasts, and markets that celebrate the town’s farming heritage and rural way of life.
- 7. Encourage events that promote the town’s historical past and rural heritage.
- 8. Support the New Richmond Preservation Society as a local repository for historical materials; also encourage residents to donate items to the historic materials repository that the society maintains.



The Richmond Town Hall is a colonial revival brick structure that was originally the Boardman School building. Photo by Shawn Demulling.

- 9. Support St. Croix County and other units of government land use regulations that are intended to manage incompatible land uses. Work with the county to enforce property maintenance codes to maintain rural residential quality and appearance.



Anderson Springs on the Willow River is one of the most scenic locations in the Town of Richmond and has been identified as important to preserve for the future. The headwaters of the springs are near the pine trees. Photo by Shawn Demulling.