1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN LANDSCAPES

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Winter 2007



Working Landscapes Sustainable Community Development

66 The wealth of our state is greatly dependent upon how we harvest the fruits of a fertile soil through production agriculture, timber and tourism. **99**

Tom Lyon - 1000 Friends Board Member



The Director's Desk

1000 Friends of Wisconsin

- created to protect and enhance Wisconsin's rural and urban landscapes by providing citizens with the inspiration, information and tools they need to effectively participate in the decisions that have the greatest impact on community health.

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Cover photo and vegetable photos on page 3 by Jack Kloppenburg Living in America's Dairyland, it is easy to take farming for granted. With over 40% of the state's land in agriculture, the landscape for farming seems limitless. Yet, while nearly a half million people in the state have jobs related to agriculture, the closest most of us get to a farm is the view through our windshields. It can be tempting to view agriculture from a purely aesthetic perspective and fail to grasp its importance to Wisconsin.

Understanding the real link between farming and the communities we live in takes a little more work. Knowing that poorly planned development can disrupt and force farming from the landscape is a call to action. In this month's *Landscapes*, we take a look at how agriculture in Wisconsin affects all of us.

Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, is a visionary when it comes to the future of agriculture in Wisconsin. Secretary Nilsestuen makes the case for taking the long view so that we take measures today that ensure a healthy future for farming in the state over the long term. Recognizing that the agricultural economy affects much more than farmers, he convened a diverse group of stakeholders ranging from representatives of the farming community, cities, towns and counties to realtors, builders, environmentalists and academics to address the future of farming in Wisconsin. (I was fortunate to be a part of the Secretary's working group.)

Called the *Working Lands Initiative*, our group was given the charge to identify how our varied interests affect agriculture in Wisconsin and to develop recommendations for policies that will ensure a healthy future for farming in the state. Secretary Nilsestuen helps us understand why all of us should care about farming in his article "Our Working Lands."

Of course, farming affects the land and our waters. Good practices that help ensure a

healthy landscape don't have to be costly to farmers. 1000 Friends board member Margaret Burlingham shows how no-till farming produces great crops with far less impact on the soils and nearby waters.

Guest author Miriam Grunes highlights the benefits of supporting local growers in her article "Eating Locally." Miram points out that not only is locally grown food better tasting, it helps the environment and the local economy.

The link between farming and urban communities is highlighted by the wonderful story of "Growing Power" – a lively and energetic community food center on Milwaukee's northside. Jerry Kauffman gives us an inspiring view of a very successful community effort to create an idea factory that teaches residents how seeds grow into produce. Locally grown crops are harvested, processed and marketed on a sustainable basis in the center of a densely populated urban community.

Wisconsin is a farm state – farming is an important part of our economy and our culture. Careless development can threaten farming operations by displacing farms or by simply making it harder to farm. New housing developments bring conflicts between farmers and non-farmers. They can also fragment the landscape, making it harder for farms to continue operations.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin is working with local communities to help them protect farmland as they grow. As Wisconsin grows by nearly one million new residents over the next 25 years, the work to protect farmland will be increasingly important. This issue is just one of our efforts to highlight the importance of agriculture to all of us in Wisconsin. We look forward to strengthening our voice in defense of agriculture in Wisconsin in the months and years to come.

Steve Hiniker

Eating Locally A Recipe for a Healthy, Delicious and Sustainable Future

Miriam Grunes, Executive Director, REAP Food Group



The phrase, "act locally," is the rallying cry for many causes, but in the case of food, the local argument is especially appropriate. Choosing locally and sustainably grown food is a vote with your fork for:

- · farmland protection and a healthier environment
- a strong regional economy with living wages for farmers
- improved public health
- · culturally diverse and delicious food

Phew. That's a mighty big fork. Fortunately, every mouthful feels and tastes great.

Here's a quick review of why eating locally and sustainably grown foods is such a good choice:

It's Good for the Environment.

Food grown close to home means less fossil fuel for transportation and packaging. Currently 17% of all the fossil fuel consumed in the US goes into the production, packaging and distribution of food. Factory farms are intensely polluting operations, dumping millions of pounds of toxic pesticides on our food each day. Wisconsin is blessed with many family farms using organic and sustainable farming practices that replenish the soil and protect watersheds and wildlife habitats.

It's Good for the Economy.

Every dollar spent on locally grown food multiplies about three dollars back into the local economy. This helps generate local jobs and keeps our cities and towns thriving. By keeping every link in the food chain local, more of each food dollar gets back to the farmer. When farmers earn a decent living they are able to stay in business, growing the food on which we all depend.

It's Good for You.

Eating locally usually means eating more whole fresh foods. As our country faces an epidemic of diet-related diseases, we are beginning to understand the devastating effects of our "fast food nation" eating habits. Skip the soda and highly processed junk food in favor of fresh local flavors.

It's Delicious!

Local produce is harvested at the peak of ripeness rather than picked prematurely. Local farmers grow a much wider array of varieties, selected for their textures and flavors, not just for their ability to be packed and shipped long distances. The abundance and variety of local fruits and vegetables, cheeses, meats, nuts, and grains in your own backyard will make your mouth water.

Of course it's not possible for 100% of your food dollar to go to local or organic foods. But pledge to spend more of your food dollars locally.

Get out to farmers' markets and meet your farmers. Join a Community Supported Agriculture Farm (CSA). Pick up a Farm Fresh Atlas and commit to buying from two new farms this year. Ask your schools, grocers, and favorite restaurants to buy locally and support those that do.

The change from our current industrialized food system, to one based on local sustainable producers won't come overnight. Nor will it come automatically, just because people want to eat more local foods. Here in Wisconsin, as everywhere else, we're losing our farmland way too fast. Land costs are rising and crop prices are not, deterring the next generation from taking up the farming profession.

We also desperately need regional processors, warehouses and distributors to fill gaps in our food delivery infrastructure. Consumer demand alone will not solve these problems. Entrepreneurial and policy solutions will need to be a big part of the picture. This year's Farm Bill must shift focus away from subsidizing factory farming to supporting sustainable agriculture and stronger regional food economies. In the end, it still all comes back to each of us making our choices known - with our wallets and with our voices.

For the last ten years, REAP Food Group (a non-profit organization in Dane County) has been working to nourish the links between land and table. Our innovative programs work to educate and to rebuild the infrastructure necessary to bring more local foods to our schools, restaurants, local food stores and dinner tables.

Hungry for more? Join us September 15th for the ninth annual Food for Thought Festival, on Madison's Capitol Square, where you can learn more about how your eating choices will change the world.

Find out more about REAP Food Group at www.reapfoodgroup.org



Lori Compas

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Our Working Lands

Now is the time to sustain and protect them

Rod Nilsestuen, Wisconsin Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Affairs



If you care about the future of Wisconsin's environment and economy, then you should care about sustaining and protecting our Working Lands. Here's why:

To preserve the best farmland and forest land in the world for the long-term.

The long-term productivity of Wisconsin's agriculture depends on the availability of land and water resources. Over the long term, the availability of adequate water resources will play a critical role in providing food and fiber to the world's ever increasing population. Given its location adjacent to abundant water, Wisconsin's agriculture will continue to increase in importance in future years. This is a vital food security issue for the United States and for the planet. Similarly, forest land produces many benefits in carbon sequestration and habitat protection. The value of farmland and forest land goes well beyond the commodities produced on this land.

To protect the agricultural and forestry economy of the state.

Agriculture and forestry are leading industries in the state. Agriculture provides a direct effect of \$28.6 billion including the sale of all farm products and value-added products. Sales of agricultural products create another \$17.6 billion in economic activity, and it is historically the most stable major industry in the state. The forest products industry is the second largest manufacturing employer in Wisconsin. Direct employment translates into 15 percent of the state's total manufacturing wage and salary income. The agriculture and forestry infrastructure is already in place in Wisconsin. These are not industries the state needs to recruit, but must retain.

To make Wisconsin a leader in the bio-economy with bio-mass feedstocks coming from working farmland and forests.

Wisconsin is well positioned to benefit from the bioeconomy because of our fertile lands, clean water and abundant forests. Wisconsin has an agriculture and forestry infrastructure well suited to adopting innovative ideas. When combined with world-class research universities and a skilled workforce, these advantages can make Wisconsin a leader in the bioeconomy. We can convert waste streams, including dairy animal waste, to methane gas that can be used to generate electricity. We are making progress on converting many plant resources to industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals and fuel. As petroleum becomes more costly, our future is based on a high tech bioeconomy. It is in our best interests to make that future happen first in Wisconsin. The plant matter grown on our farms and in our forests is renewable and sustainable, unlike the petroleum economy.

To retain natural systems.

Agricultural land can provide many benefits to the environment by providing stormwater retention, flood control, groundwater recharge, and areas of wildlife habitat. Once the land surface is developed with buildings and pavement, these benefits are lost. Trees are critical to carbon sequestration and with increasing concern over the impacts of global warming, greater attention to this issue is vital. Forest land is critical to groundwater protection and habitat protection as well.

To retain open space areas and the character of Wisconsin's landscape.

Wisconsin is known for its recreational opportunities and amenities. Those amenities include views of agricultural lands and forest lands as one travels to various recreation spots. Changing that experience for those recreationists by developing farmland and forest land could have a significant impact on the tourism industry, and would change forever the beauty of the Wisconsin landscape.

To reduce premature disinvestment in agriculture.

As farmland is developed, it fragments the agricultural landscape and creates uncertainty for adjacent farmers. Because of this uncertainty, farmers adjacent to developing and developed land typically choose not to invest in new equipment and structures that would improve the profitability of the farming operation. Once disinvestment occurs, it is a relatively short step to conversion of the farmland to nonagricultural use because of low profitability.

To maintain our rich tradition of hunting and fishing and outdoor activity.

Wisconsin residents and tourists love to hunt and fish in our state. Without farmland and forest areas we lose a buffer for hunting areas and often critical habitat areas. The farm and forest land of Wisconsin is the needed open space from urban congestion. The demand for private hunting land increases each year and this limits public access.

Wisconsin heritage is tied to agriculture and forestry. Our future is critically linked to sustaining and protecting our Wisconsin working lands.



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No-Till Makes the Crop

Burlinghams take land stewardship seriously



Tom Burlingham says, "Top soil is the most precious resource on our farm so we plant our crops without working up the fields in order to build soil, not deplete it." Tom and his wife, Margaret, farm about 500 acres near Palmyra in Jefferson County. Tom has lived on this farm his whole life.

With the help of two part-time summer employees, Tom grows about 150 acres of hay that produces four crops annually, and 100 acres each of corn, soybeans, and wheat. A typical crop rotation is four to five years of alfalfa or alfalfa/grass mixed hay, one year of corn, one year of soybeans, one year of wheat, and back to alfalfa. Each crop provides benefits for the subsequent crop and the rotation breaks pest and disease cycles. For example, alfalfa and soybeans are legumes that fix nitrogen in their roots. The nitrogen is then used by the corn and wheat, which are grasses and heavy nitrogen users.

"Hay is a perennial crop so it is very good for conserving soil. It is often our most profitable crop", says Tom. Hay is direct marketed to feed dairy and beef cattle, horses, llamas, goats, and even rare black rhinos at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The corn is sold to a large family-owned and run egg farm five miles away. The chicken farm spreads manure, a free local source of fertilizer, on Bellingham's farm according to a DNR-approved plan.

To build soil rather than deplete it, Tom plants the new crop directly into the residue of the previous crop in most fields. No-till planters and grain drills have special discs that cut through the stalks of the previous crop, place the seed at the proper depth in the ground, and press the soil back on top of it. An annual crop can be planted and harvested with only three trips across the field - planting, spraying, and combining - rather than three or more tillage trips needed just to get a plowed field smooth enough for planting.

When Tom first tried no-till corn in 1982, his father stated, "No-till is no crop!" The Burlinghams think they have better yields with no-till than they would have had by working up the soil and leaving the surface exposed to drying winds and erosion. Though crop prices have not increased much since 1980 when they bought the family farm, yields have almost doubled on grain crops due to improved crop resistance to pests and stress, timely recommendations from their crop consultant who scouts all the fields weekly, and no-till planting.

"With no-till we are leaving crop residue on the field as a mulch," Tom says. "The residue helps conserve moisture on our light sandy soils, reduces runoff and erosion, builds organic matter reducing fertilizer inputs, reduces chemical applications, increases microbial activity, prevents the loss of carbon – which is volatilized each time a field is worked up - and reduces fuel consumption, labor and trips across the field, wear on equipment, and fuel Multiple tillage trips can destroy soil structure and Burlingham has noticed a change from less tillage. "The soil is higher in organic matter, it's softer, water infiltrates much faster, it has a higher water holding capacity, and there is more worm activity."

The Burlinghams take stewardship of the land seriously. "We put our most erosive fields into the federal conservation reserve program (CRP) and planted trees. The program expired, but we kept the trees," says Tom. Bobolinks and meadowlarks nest in the CRP fields. Red-headed woodpeckers, raptors, song birds, waterfowl, turkeys, coyotes, and deer are commonly seen on the farm.

Over eleven acres were planted to a 150 foot wide prairie streambank buffer through the conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP) and are in a permanent easement. The Burlinghams are now working on improving the habitat of two woodlots where they have found a species on the state threatened list that is a savanna indicator.

When you take a country drive this spring, Tom says, "Look for no-till fields with rows of young crops coming up through the previous year's brown stubble." It may not be easy to see from the road, but farmers throughout Wisconsin are growing crops for food, fiber, and fuel in sustainable ways, building soil for future generations, infiltrating rain water to replenish the aquifers that provide our drinking water, maintaining and improving natural areas, and installing conservation practices to improve our waterways. Farmers and agriculture have staying power in our communities and in the local and state economy; they have been here for over 150 years.



Burlingham's no-till corn planter

Growing Power Farming Inside Cities

Jerry Kaufman, Emeritus Professor, Urban & Regional Planning, UW-Madison and Growing Power Board President

In 1993, 6-foot, 7-inch tall Will Allen, who grew up on a farm, became a professional basketball player in Europe. After returning to the States he farmed 100 acres in a Milwaukee suburb and decided to purchase a two acre site on Milwaukee's north side. The land housed six connected, dilapidated greenhouses, the last remnant of Milwaukee's flower-growing district.



Will Allen

Guided by an initial vision to help inner-city youngsters gain life skills by uncovering the secrets of turning seeds into food, Allen created a non-profit organization to turn that vision into reality. First called Farm-City Link, it later became Growing Power. Over the years, with the help of countless volunteers and dedicated staff, Allen converted this tired-looking site into a unique place-a lively and energetic Community Food Center. It is an idea factory for youth, urban and rural farmers, community activists and educators to learn how to grow, process, market, and distribute food on small sites in a low-cost sustainable manner. From its inauspicious beginning 13 years ago, Growing Power has become one of the country's most innovative, imaginative and successful urban agriculture programs.

Its nerve center is its small farm/greenhouse site wedged on Silver Spring Drive among apartment complexes, modest ranch homes, public housing projects, and an Army reserve training base. In a space no larger than a small-sized supermarket live some 20,000 plants and vegetables, thousands of fish and worms, and a livestock inventory of chickens, goats, ducks, rabbits, and honeymaking bees. This impressive panoply of diverse food-growing projects are carefully nurtured and harvested. These also serve as the learning hubs

for workshop participants who come to Milwaukee to be trained in sustainable and inexpensive ways to create and maintain urban agriculture.

In 2006, Growing Power hosted 10 hands-on 2- and 3-day trainings at its Milwaukee site with over 800 people from around the country in attendance. In addition, another 3,000 people came to the Growing Power community food center during the year for tours. In the same year, 150 varieties of greens were grown in Growing Power's greenhouses and in its 4 outdoor unheated hoop-houses; 10,000 tilapia fish were raised in an aquaculture closed-loop plant and fish growing system; tens of thousands of red wiggler worms ate their way through over a thousand tons of food scraps to produce one million pounds of high quality compost; and a high solids anaerobic digester, using food waste to increase its use of renewable energies, was installed with the help of a Wisconsin DNR grant.

Beyond its Milwaukee Silver Springs site, Growing Power has spread its wings to reach other places. Chicago is a particular focal point of Growing Power's expanded activities with several projects underway including a 20,000 square foot urban farm with 150 varieties of heirloom vegetables, herbs, and flowers on the city's lakefront adjacent to the Buckingham Fountain. This is both a partnership with the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago to create and maintain a largescale community garden adjacent to the Cabrini Green public housing project, and the start of installation and management of an urban farm at one of the nation's premier culinary schools, Kendall College. In 2006, Growing Power also provided outreach trainings to community groups in 12 states and 2 Native American nations including the Blackfoot nation in Montana and the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin. An expanding Market Basket program, which operates weekly, yearround at over 25 sites in Milwaukee and Chicago, provided healthy, low cost vegetables and fruits to an average of 250 households per week last year. A network of small family farmers who belong to the Rainbow Farmers Cooperative, which Growing Power helped create, grow and market food using sustainable techniques, thus keeping more of the profits for themselves.



Growing Power continues to extend its reach to new program areas and to new places. As Will Allen puts it, he has been driven by a desire to challenge a commonly held perception. "Most people think that rural areas are there to produce the food while urban areas are there to consume it. We're trying to demonstrate that on an urban level you can control the production, marketing, and distribution of food while also strengthening your community." Growing Power is clearly enjoying the success in challenging this perception.

Photos courtesy of Growing Power



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1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Annual Report 2006

Celebrating 10 years + 1996-2006



1000 Friends of Wisconsin

OUR MISSION is to protect and enhance Wisconsin's rural and urban landscapes by providing citizens with the inspiration, information and tools they need to effectively participate in the decisions that have the greatest impact on community health.

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1000 Friends is a member agency of Community Shares of Wisconsin

Dear Friends,

2006 marked our tenth anniversary as Wisconsin's strongest, biggest *and only* statewide voice for making our communities stronger through Smart Growth. We provided local leaders with the tools and advice they needed to be successful advocates for good development. Our professional assistance helped communities plan for growth while protecting the natural and cultural resources that are important to them.

In the past year we also led winning fights for better transit services in the state. Our transportation advocacy helped keep pork-barrel highway projects off the books, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. Our advocacy for transit and para-transit services helped focus the need for more state investments in critical local transit services. We also worked with the Surface Transportation Policy Project in Washington, D.C. to develop new measures that include sustainable principles for identifying transportation projects that deserve funding.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin took the lead in advocating for sustainable development principles for communities throughout the state. Our efforts to promote and support sustainable development, including the eco-municipality model that uses the Natural Step sustainability framework, will ensure that Wisconsin is at the leading edge of development that is in harmony with our environment and our economy. Our staff led a tour to visit eco-municipalities in Sweden. Participants returned energized and committed to promoting these models of sustainable development here in Wisconsin.

Our membership continues to grow (we registered member number 3000 in April of 2006) as does our services to members. We have continued to upgrade our newsletter - a four-color quarterly publication - as well as our website. Our website contains up to the minute news for our members, as well as in-depth information regarding transportation policy initiatives, sustainability models and toolkits and resources for planners and local activists.

In the ten years since our start in 1996, we have become recognized as the top source of information for local land use activists. Our advocacy efforts are strengthened by our credibility and our thorough knowledge of the many issues that we address. We expect our expertise to be needed even more as the state's population is expected to grow by another million people in the next quarter century.

Steve Hiniker



Uses of Funds 7% 10% Smart Growth Transportation 11% 48% Working Lands Education/Outreach Fundraising Admin 21% Smart Growth 233,040 103,540 Transportation Working Lands 14,330 Education/Outreach 55,283 Fundraising 51,544 Administration 35,394 **Total Expenses** \$ 493,131

2006 Income and Expenses

2006 Highlights

Legislative Activities

Smart Growth

In 2006, members of the Legislature made yet another attempt to roll back common sense land use planning and smart growth initiatives, but 1000 Friends of Wisconsin fought back and worked to defeat AB 675, a poorly conceived "landowner compensation bill" modeled on Oregon's Measure 37. AB 675 was a virtual copy of Measure 37, which was passed recently in the State of Oregon. Since Measure 37 was enacted in Oregon, more than 1,500 claims totalling over \$3 billion have been filed against Oregon's state and local governments that are trying to implement basic land use policies. As an alternative to cash compensation, Oregon's claimants are demanding to build thousands of houses and millions of square feet of commercial development where farms, forests and rural lands now stand.

1000 Friends mobilized concerned residents around the state and worked with local governments and legislators to make sure they had the facts they needed to defeat what could have been the most damaging proposal in the state with respect to the future of sound land use decision making, local control and public participation in community planning.

Advocating for Balanced Transportation Systems

1000 Friends of Wisconsin led the way for major transportation victories in the 2005-2007 biennial budget. For the first time in more than 15 years, the legislature and governor approved no new highway expansion projects as a part of the state budget. Transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities received a \$6 million, 36%, funding increase, the largest increase in the history of the program. These victories, along with the ongoing assistance we provide to citizens promoting transit, bicycling and walking projects and highway reform at the local levels, put us in a unique position to fight for meaningful transportation reform in 2007 and beyond.

1000 Friends will be leading efforts to ensure better bus and rail transit, further increases for transportation for the elderly and people with disabilities, and less waste on overbuilt highway projects. The 2007-2009 state budget process will be the first of many opportunities over the next few years to move Wisconsin forward toward a more balanced transportation system that meets the needs of all its residents.

Working Lands

Working to Protect Wisconsin's Forests

1000 Friends of Wisconsin continues to work to promote sustainable forest land use practices to prevent forest fragmentation and parcelization. In July 2006 Policy Director Lisa MacKinnon led another "Forest Fragmentation Tour" for participants in the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program at Kemp Station in Minocqua, WI.

Working to Protect Wisconsin Farmland

Steve Hiniker was a member of the Working Lands Initiative, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection, that was created to address issues related to the future of farming in Wisconsin. 1000 Friends focused its efforts on policies related to protecting farmland from development that threatens agricultural operations. Promoting and Supporting Sustainable Communities

Planning Assistance

1000 Friends of Wisconsin is the only nonprofit organization that provides professional planning assistance to all communities throughout the state. We provide expert advice on comprehensive planning, public participation and guidance with local development issues. Our staff has the expertise and experience to help communities understand that community planning protects property rights by providing certainty about whether, where and what types of development will occur. In 2006, we helped communities plan more effectively and find ways to resolve contentious development and planning problems. Our efforts helped local citizens become more effective leaders for responsible development.

In 2006, we also helped organize the 3rd "Nolen to Now Conference," which is dedicated to the city planning legacy of John Nolen; partnered with the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech to carry out an analysis of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Program; participated in a strategic planning process for statewide Geographic Information System services; and helped organize and secure funding for the newly formed Neighborhood Design Center.

Promoting sustainable development

1000 Friends continued to work with partners from the North American Eco-Municipality Network to promote and support emerging eco-municipalities in Wisconsin and throughout the United States through public outreach on the eco-municipality model and the Natural Step Sustainability framework and facilitation of local community sustainable development initiatives. We presented to a number of local governments, county committees, professional associations, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and the annual conference of the Wisconsin chapters of the American Planning Association (WAPA) and the American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA).

Capacity Building

1000 Friends of Wisconsin Policy Director, Lisa MacKinnon, served as the U.S. coordinator and promoter of the 2006 Sustainable Sweden Eco-Municipality Study Tour, which was led by the Sustainable Sweden Association. This intensive two-week study tour highlighted sustainable development projects and models in local governments, organizations and businesses throughout Sweden.

The tour brought together 27 participants from the United States (Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and New Hampshire) and Ireland representing local, county and tribal governments, businesses, tourism, planners, public utilities, educators and non-profit organizations. Over the course of two weeks, the tour participants traveled across Sweden – from port cities in the far southwest up to rural communities near the Arctic Circle – to learn first-hand about how local governments are creating and maintaining ecologically, economically and socially sustainable communities.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin

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Ward Lyles Transportation Policy Director





Lisa MacKinnon Policy Director

Steve Hiniker Executive Director



Barb Irvin Finance Director

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Kevin Pomeroy Planning Director



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lisa MacKinnon, Policy Director

The 2007 - 2008 Legislative Session

Session Opens with an Opportunity to Support Local Wisconsin Farms & Governor Doyle Unveils his 2007-2009 Budget Proposal

Since our last update a new, re-configured Wisconsin Legislature has begun a new session and the 2007-2008 Biennial Budget process is under way.

Help Make the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin Program a Reality!

One of the promising new legislative proposals introduced early this session is the proposal by State Senator Julie Lassa to fund the **Buy Local**, **Buy Wisconsin** program (no bill number has been assigned yet). This initiative is an innovative program to expand regional food markets and support consumer access to fresh, healthy food.

Background on Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin

Over the course of many months, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) convened meetings to discuss barriers to regional food systems and agricultural tourism in the state. Over 70 people participated, including farmers, farm group leaders, extension agents, state agency staff and nonprofit organizations. The Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program emerged out of the meetings and has since received broad support from Wisconsin producers, manufacturers, retailers, community organizations and others.

The Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program has the following objectives:

1. Develop, expand and enhance regional food markets for Wisconsin producers and processors.

2. Increase consumer awareness and access to high quality locally produced foods.

3. Expand regional agricultural tourism in Wisconsin.

Through the program, DATCP will offer a competitive grants program to farmers, community organizations, nonprofits and businesses to develop regional food markets and food and culture tourism trails. DATCP will also provide technical assistance to help address barriers to regional food markets, including issues of marketing, processing, and distribution.

Whether it is increasing local food in school lunches, hospital cafeterias or restaurants, Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin will provide the critical resources necessary for Wisconsin communities to expand their local food markets and support local farmers and farms. The program budget is \$550,000 annually, which includes \$225,000 in competitive grant dollars.

We think the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin initiative is right in line with 1000 Friends' mission to preserve and enhance our state's economic, cultural and natural resources - in this case, through strong support of, and investment in, our local food producers.

What can you do? Write or call your state Assembly and State Senate members and ask them to support the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin bill(s).

To find your representatives, go to: http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/

Here are some of the reasons why people support Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin

- Buy Local, Buy WI will increase access to regional food markets for Wisconsin farmers.
- Buy Local, Buy WI will increase farmer profitability, which will help preserve the state's farmland for future generations.
- Buy Local, Buy WI makes good sense for our economy and our health.
- Buy Local, Buy WI will meet growing consumer demand for local food.
- Buy Local, Buy WI will develop regional food tourism trails, building upon Wisconsin's agricultural heritage.
- Buy Local, Buy WI represents the first comprehensive approach to keep food dollars in Wisconsin communities, which will help local businesses, improve farm income, and increase consumer access to healthy food.

Information on Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin provided by Jeanne Merrill of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute. For more information, please contact Jeanne at 608-256-1859 or jeannemerrill@ earthlink.net

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State Biennial Budget News

1000 Friends will be following the state budget as it moves from the Governor's desk through the Joint Finance Committee and other legislative channels. We will keep you informed of future budget action via this newsletter, our website and email alerts. If you would like to sign up for our email alerts, please let us know by emailing us at **friends@1kfriends.org.**

Increasing Comprehensive Planning Grants Funding

We are advocating for an increase in funding for the planning grants program in order to support the towns, villages, cities and counties across the state that are trying to strengthen their communities through comprehensive planning and comply with the planning law in a timely manner. We are recommending that the budget restore the \$1 million annually that was cut by the Joint Finance Committee in 2005, as well as additional funding to eliminate the backlog in planning grant applications that have to be denied due to a lack of program funding.

Currently, the program is funded at \$2 million annually, which reflects the significant 33% cut in the program in 2003 as a result of the Joint Finance Committee's elimination of the \$1 million annual transportation planning grant portion of the program.

Over 800 (of the state's 1,923) units of local government are working on their comprehensive plans with the assistance of these grants. Each year, the Department of Administration (DOA) is able to fund only a fraction of the planning grant applications submitted by communities around the state in order to leverage local funding for the comprehensive planning process. In the 2006 grant cycle, DOA received 34 grant applications representing 316 communities around the state for a total of \$5.8 million. With its current budget of \$2 million annually, DOA was only able to fund 9 of the 34 applications leaving 239 of the applying communities with no assistance for their planning last year. For the 2007 grant application cycle, the DOA has received applications representing 305 units of government and asking for a total of \$4.8 million. The state will have to turn away many of these communities that are seeking to plan for their future health and prosperity.

Adequate funding for the planning grants program is critical in order for communities across the state to initiate and complete their comprehensive plans by the comprehensive planning law's 2010 compliance deadline.

Keeping the Stewardship Fund Strong

The demand and need for conservation lands and places to recreate is strong and will continue to increase well into the future as our population grows. At the same time, land is a finite resource that is facing increasing pressures for development. The opportunity to conserve it for future generations disappears with the passage of each year.

As the Stewardship Fund nears reauthorization, we are advocating for significantly strengthening the purchasing power of the Stewardship Fund to keep up with inflation and the rising cost of land.

Governor's Budget Strengthens Stewardship Fund for Future Generations

Governor Doyle's state budget recommends reauthorizing the Stewardship Fund at \$105 million per year from 2011 through 2020. **This is great news** for land conservation in the state! Established in 1989 in honor of former Governors Warren Knowles and Gaylord Nelson, the Stewardship program has helped protect more than 475,000 acres of high-quality recreation and environmentallysensitive land in Wisconsin. These lands are available to the public for hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing and other outdoor activities in 71 of the 72 counties of Wisconsin.

Governor Doyle has moved to ensure the continued success of this invaluable program by increasing Stewardship's purchasing power to keep pace with rising land prices and the demand from tourism and development pressures. A strong Stewardship program will maintain Wisconsin as a national leader in protecting valuable state lands for future generations.

Transportation

We support **increased funding for transit aids**. By providing efficient, affordable transportation choices, transit plays a key role in increasing economic competitiveness, environmental quality and a high quality of life in Wisconsin's communities. However, Wisconsin's transit systems are unable to meet their full potential because of insufficient funding. As we outlined this summer in our Ten Percent for Transit plan, we believe that the share of the state transportation budget dedicated to transit funding should be increased to 10%. Currently, transit comprises less than 6% of the state transportation budget.

We support an **additional \$6 million increase to the elderly and disabled transportation program** to complement the \$6 million increase we worked for in the previous state budget. Adequate funding for this program translates into better access to medical care, nutrition, jobs, and shopping for residents across the state as transit providers struggle to meet rising costs, especially due to gas prices.

We support **increased funding for the Surface Transportation Discretionary Program.** This program funds the bicycle and pedestrian improvements that help communities across the state improve mobility for residents, attract tourists and tourism revenues, and enhance their overall quality of life. In order to get bicycle and pedestrian projects in this state back on track, we are asking that this program be re-established at its previous level of \$3.4 million per year, with an additional \$13.6 million to replace what the legislature removed from the last two state budgets.

Finally, we strongly support efforts to rein in out of control highway spending. Every dollar spent on highway expansion is a dollar not spent on education, stewardship of our natural resources, and much needed local transportation investments. With WisDOT revealing that the costs of major highway capacity expansion projects will exceed projected budgets by more than \$1.3 billion and with driving in Wisconsin down for the first time in more than 20 years in 2005, it only seems prudent to delay or scale back major expansion projects currently in the planning and early construction phases.

Visit our website **www.1kfriends.org** for more details about our budget priorities.

1000 Friends Board Profiles

Tom Lyon



Tom retired as Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative Resources International, Shawano, Wisconsin, in 2002. Since his retirement he has served as a consultant to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. He is currently serving as co-chair of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences Future of Farming and Rural Life study.

Tom says he joined the 1000 Friends board because its mission and strategic objectives address the most critical long term issue facing the state's economic and social landscape - the preservation and wise use of our land and water resources.

Tom explains his personal interests, "Like many others of my generation, I am a product of the land and land grant university system. Reared on an Iowa farm, my parents were farmer leaders in the conservation movement of the 'dust bowl' 30's and into post WW II. They lived by the adage "be good to the land and it will be good to you."

"During my four decades in agricultural business, I have had the opportunity to be involved in organizations like American Farmland Trust and the Wisconsin 2000 Stewardship task force. These exposures have reenforced my feelings on the need for long-term planning and preservation of our land. I believe the programs of 1000 Friends can have a similar impact on the Wisconsin citizenry, many of whom are now a generation or two removed from the land."

Margaret Burlingham

Margaret is the principal of her consulting firm, LanDesign. She provides park planning and design, land use planning, and rain garden design and installation services to public sector clients. She and her husband, Tom, operate Langmanor Farm near Palmyra in Jefferson County where they grow 500 acres of hay, corn, soybeans and wheat, and custom bale hay. The story on page 5 describes the Burlingham's no-till farm.

In addition to the 1000 Friends of Wisconsin board, she serves on the Washington County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Transportation Committee, WDNR Glacial Heritage Area External Advisory Team, the Rock River Coalition Planning the Rock Issue Team, and is a volunteer stream quality monitor.

In her spare time, Margaret enjoys photography, horseback riding, kayaking, hiking, gardening, travel, and reading.

"I joined the 1000 Friends board because I admired the work they did on passing the smart growth law. As a farmer, the future of agriculture and rural communities in Wisconsin is very important to me and needs a voice."



A Little Planning Now Will Make A Big Difference Later

Please consider including 1000 Friends of Wisconsin in your estate plan. If you do not already have a will, you may want to consider creating one as a foundation for your estate planning. Individuals of even modest means can help preserve and expand the work of 1000 Friends for future generations. We urge you to check with your financial advisor about the many options for making a planned gift or contact Deborah Nemeth at 608.259.1000 or dnemeth@1kfriends.org.

Around the State

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Imagine Green Madison

Policy Director Lisa MacKinnon participated in an innovative three-day community gathering – Imagine Green Madison – that will be the first step in a long-term action agenda to create and implement new networks, partnerships and activities to promote long-term sustainability and a healthier environment in Madison and the Capital Region.

Organized by UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, Imagine Green Madison gathered leaders from all segments of the community – businesses, local government, academia, energy, agriculture, public health and non-profit organizations representing the region's diverse population and interests – to identify opportunities for a comprehensive, integrated sustainability initiative. It is not meant to reinvent the wheel – many wheels are already in motion in government, business, at local colleges and universities, and in the non-profit sector. Rather, it will help create new linkages between people, organizations, companies and projects, and introduce sustainability concepts to new segments of our community.

Imagine Green Madison was based on the Future Search process, a proven and highly successful method of building consensus and solving complex problems.

Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz joined the gathering for welcoming remarks on its opening day, February 15, 2007.

Streetcars - Hot Topic in Madison

Streetcars have become a very hot topic in Madison in recent months. Much of the discussion has been skewed by election year politics, as well as anti-transit and anti-planning ideologues like Randal O'Toole, whose drive-by misinformation and unsubstantiated claims we have challenged in the local media and through our website. Fortunately, good reason has prevailed in the policy realm as the Madison City Council recently voted down an attempt to force a referendum on streetcars in April 2007, which would have meant that Madison residents would have been voting before the study process concluded or there was any proposal to vote on. 1000 Friends continues to work with our partners, Downtown Trolley and the Dane Alliance for Rail Transit, to educate and engage citizens and policy makers alike in our efforts to promote a regional transit system.

Visit www.1kfriends.org and click on the link to our streetcar page to get all the latest updates, as well as learn more about O'Toole, his allies and their tactics.

And Out of State

Lisa MacKinnon Participates in International Sustainability Leadership Summit

Policy Director Lisa MacKinnon was recently honored to receive an invitation from The Natural Step International to attend and participate in a 5-day series of meetings and trainings in Stockholm, Sweden from January 18th through 22nd.

The first day of events was a Leadership Summit facilitated by the Natural Step International with the King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf. The goal of the Summit was to stimulate cross-sector partnerships for sustainability leadership among 90 global decision makers from business, the public sector, the non-profit sector, science and academia. Lisa is a co-founder and coordinator of the North American Eco-municipality Network.

Following the Leadership Summit Lisa presented jointly with Bryant Moroder of Sustain Dane to The Natural Step International's Annual Council meeting. Their presentation focused on the progress of the North American Eco-Municipality Network since its formation in June 2005, the emerging Wisconsin and U.S. eco-municipalities, and proposals for strengthening partnerships and collaboration between the North-American Eco-Municipality Network and TNS-International and its many international partners.

The week's events concluded with a three-day advanced training with The Natural Step International organization. The aim of the training was to increase capacity to assist others who are applying the Natural Step sustainability framework and process to their own organizations—looking at both business and community applications. Lisa and Bryant presented on their ongoing involvement with the City of Madison's training in The Natural Step and discussed how the city is implementing the TNS framework.

Lisa also met with colleagues from the Sustainable Sweden Association to plan the next Sustainable Sweden Eco-Municipality Study Tour, which is scheduled for October 2007 in conjunction with the Swedish Eco-Municipality Association's first International Eco-Municipality Conference (Oct 18-19) .

Lisa is scheduling presentations on the eco-municipalities and The Natural Step framework. If you are interested in hearing more or scheduling a presentation for your community or organization, please contact her at **Lmac@1kfriends.org** or 608/259-1000 ext 107.

For more information about the eco-municipalities, the North American Eco-Municipality Network or the Sustainable Sweden Study Tour, visit the Eco-Municipalities section on 1000 Friends of Wisconsin's website: www.1kfriends.org/Eco-Municipalities.htm





Losing land, opportunity

Threats to Farmland in Wisconsin Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 28, 2007 Amy Rinard

Steve Hiniker, executive director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, a non-partisan, land-use planning advocacy group, said it's more important than ever for the state to act to preserve the farmland that's left.

"Clearly, the state is embarking on a strategy related to biofuels, and the impact of the loss of farmland goes right to the heart of that strategy," Hiniker said.

His organization has long advocated measures to protect farm fields and open space from development.

But think of the environment!

Natural Step sustainability framework Isthmus, January 4, 2007 Phil Hands

When cooking oil from your turkey fryer goes down the drain, it causes headaches for the folks who unclog the city sewer system. But of even greater concern to the city is that this valuable resource not go to waste.

"We can turn that clog into fuel," says Andrew Statz, the city's fiscal efficiency auditor. The Streets Division has set up facilities to collect cooking oil at the city's Sycamore and Badger Road recycling centers. And by next year at this time, the city plans to use that grease to fuel the machinery that unclogs the sewers.

"It's kind of a nice closed loop," says Cathy Cryan of city engineering, which is spearheading the conversion project. "We spend a lot of time cleaning grease out of sewers, so if we can prevent it from going there in the first place, we'll reduce our maintenance and at the same time provide ourselves with an alternative source of fuel."

This collaboration across departments is part of the Natural Step framework the city adopted last year. Aided by volunteers from Sustain Dane, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and other environmental groups, some two dozen city employees recently attended a two-day training session.

Let's Not Rush to Judgment on Region's Transit Options

The Capital Times, February 3, 2007 Op-Ed supporting regional approach to transit Ward Lyles, 1000 Friends Transportation Policy Director, Fred Bartol & John DeLamater of the

Madison Streetcar Coalition

Debate about these studies (regional bus service, regional rail and streetcars) and how they fit together need not wait until they are complete. But we also should not jump to premature judgments, pit the options against each other, or take rash actions. Instead, we need to evaluate how to combine the proposals into an integrated, regional transportation system.

Regional growth presents us with major transportation challenges. Each of the options being studied offers an important tool to address those challenges. Let's focus on putting together the right tool kit to enhance the capital region's ability to meet our future transportation needs in a way that provides a prosperous and sustainable economy, environmental quality and a high quality of life.

Reinventing Hilldale

The Capital Times, November 18, 2006 Lynn Welch

Steve Hiniker, executive director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, calls this first-of-its-kind development here significant.

"It's groundbreaking in its scope and magnitude and hopefully a sign of things to come," Hiniker said. "Dane County and the region is growing, and we have a choice of whether to build up or build out. If we want to have anything left of what makes Dane County special, we're going to have to build up."

Some shoppers said they miss the cozy feel of the former Hilldale compared to the urban look it now has. This doesn't surprise Hiniker.

"There are two things people feel strongly about when it comes to land use. One is density, and the other one is sprawl," he said. "Density is a change, and people resist it strongly, but where do people congregate?"

Hiniker calls this type of dense development new urbanism. It combines easy foot access with quick entry for vehicles to amenities.

Land Legacy Report

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is proud to announce the publication of The Wisconsin Land Legacy Report. With hundreds off stunning maps, photos, graphs and text, the report describes the special places in Wisconsin that will be critical to meet conservation and recreation needs for the next fifty years. Identified over a three-year process involving the public, non-profit organizations, and natural resource professionals, these Legacy Places are, collectively, what "makes Wisconsin Wisconsin."

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report

An inventory of places to meet Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation need.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource

- Key Highlights:
- Identifies places critical to meet conservation and outdoor recreation needs
- 50 year time frame
- Public involved 3-year study process
- Identifies and describes 229 Legacy Places
- Report is an educational resource
- 250 pages, full color, 11x17

Available for \$15 plus tax.

For more information, contact:

Land.Legacy@wisconsin.gov -or-Land Legacy – LF/6 Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707–7921

The full report (Publication number LF–040–2006) is available for \$15 plus tax at your local DNR Service Center or can be ordered through the state's Document Sales Office at 800.362.7253. The Document Sales Office charges an additional \$8 for shipping and handling, plus tax, and accepts Visa and Mastercard.





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