COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ASESSMENT FACT SHEET SERIES

#5 – Environmental Resources Inventory

Identify the location(s) in your community for study. The worksheets will help you explore and document details needed to determine preferred actions. Choose the ones most appropriate to the site you wish to study.

Resource Study Topics

- Study Area Overview and Description
- Study Area – Actions Summary
- Aesthetic Qualities/ Scenic Resources
- Agricultural Land Resources
- Cultural Features
- Geographic Setting/Soil and Mineral Resources
- Groundwater/Water Supply
- Human Health/Environmental Hazards
- Plant Communities
- Surface Water Resources/Water Supply
- Waste Reduction
- Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Resource Use Possibilities

Worksheets identify what questions to ask, and are best completed with the assistance of a technical advisor. Fact sheets providing background for some topics are included in *Factsheet #9, Support Resources*.

Table I provides ideas about how each resource is typically used.

Fact sheet #5 is reformatted from the original fact sheet, ICOMAS70 4/96

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FACT SHEET SERIES

#1 – OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

#2 – TAKING STOCK
A questionnaire to summarize information about the community and consider how to manage environmental resources.

#3 – INFORMATION IN LAND USE PLANNING
Describes how to integrate environmental information into community land use plans

#4 – THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
A one page overview useful for explaining the inventory process to potential users.

#5 – INVENTORY WORKSHEETS
Inventory the community environment, open space lands, and land in consideration for changed uses. Worksheets identify what questions to ask, and are best completed with the assistance of a technical advisory. Fact sheets for some topics are included in #9, Support Resources.

#6 – DEVELOPMENT IMPACT ANALYSIS
What is it and how to use it?

#7 – POTENTIAL IMPACTS FROM DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES
Provides a worksheet to guide review of potential impacts from a proposed development along with an example, summarizing potential impacts from construction activity.

#8 – HOW TO SET UP THE IMPACT PROCESS
The Leopold Matrix and instructions.

9 — SUPPORT RESOURCES
Provides background information about air quality, cultural features, floodplain protection, groundwater, shorelands and wetlands, the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA).

TABLE I – RESOURCE USE POSSIBILITIES

Cultural	Commercial Economic	Education Research	Natural systems	Open space	Recreation
community identity archeological site or setting historical or cultural site or setting maintain high quality opportunities for cultural expression	building site/housing clean air requirements commercial wood and fiber production crop types fishing hunting/trapping nonmetallic mineral sources metallic mineral sources pasture land tourist attraction	adult group visits school group visits nature study research site for: _____ wildlife observation	aquifer discharge aquifer recharge plant/animal diversity feeding habitat flood control flood plain protection animal movement corridors nesting/resting/ breeding/burrow habitat nutrient and sediment control surface water quality protection wintering/ migratory habitat	aesthetic considerations: -feature landscape -long distance view -screening -spiritual enrichment -variation in landforms -variation in topography buffer zone between incompatible land uses space where education, research, natural systems and recreation activities can take place	boating, motorized boating, non-motorized camping corridors for: -walking -biking -hiking -skiing corridors for: -dirt bikes -snowmobiles fishing picnic/playground swimming wild food gathering

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

STUDY AREA – OVERVIEW

STUDY AREA/TOPIC
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
DESCRIPTION
PRESENT USE(S)
ISSUES/CONCERNS ABOUT STUDY AREA OR TOPIC

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TO BE STUDIED
Check those of interest. See description and worksheet provided for each topic. ☐ Aesthetic Qualities/ Scenic Resources ☐ Agricultural Land Resources ☐ Cultural Features ☐ Geographic Setting/Soil and Mineral Resources ☐ Groundwater/Water Supply ☐ Human Health/Environmental Hazards ☐ Plant Communities ☐ Surface Water Resources/Water Supply ☐ Waste Reduction ☐ Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

STUDY AREA – ACTIONS SUMMARY

STUDY AREA/TOPIC
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
INFORMATION GATHERED - Summary
Topics studied:
Key findings
INFORMATION MAPPED
SIGNIFICANCE OF AREA IN THE REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM
In relation to other natural resources
In relation to human health concerns

RESOURCE USE POSSIBILITIES
MANAGEMENT OPTIONS IN PLACE
GOAL FOR RESOURCE/AREA
INFORMATION SHARED WITH CONSULTANT (or to be shared)
OTHER PLANS

COMMUNITY HUMAN ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES INVENTORY

AESTHETIC QUALITIES/SCENIC RESOURCES

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
LANDMARKS
LONG DISTANCE VIEWS
UNUSUAL WATER/LAND INTERFACES
Scenic stretches of shores, rivers, streams
GEOLOGICAL FEATURES OF POPULAR INTEREST
NATURAL AREAS THAT ENHANCE COMMUNITY APPEARANCE
For example: environmental corridors, scenic greenbelts, and open space
QUALITY OF RESOURCE
Accessibility

Condition
Nearby uses
Significance to the human community
DATA NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit
GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES, specific
SOIL DESCRIPTION AND LESA* CAPABILITY RATINGS
***USDA NRCS - Land Evaluation and Site Assessment** Use resources available on the USDA NRCS Land Evaluation and Site Assessment web page
GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION POTENTIAL*
***See Farm*A*Syst assessment factsheets and worksheets** Worksheets are available via websites for the following programs, and others: Iowa Farm Bureau – Farm Regulations Assistance Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program New Mexico State University – New Mexico Farm*A*Syst Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture – Tennessee Farm*A*Syst USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Vermont: Technical Resources, Data, Maps, & Analysis
QUALITY OF LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES
Accessibility

Condition
Nearby uses
Significance to local and regional economy
DATA NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit
GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY HUMAN ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES INVENTORY

CULTURAL FEATURES

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES
List
ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES
List
CULTURAL FEATURES
List
HISTORICAL FEATURES
List
QUALITY OF RESOURCE(S)
Accessibility
Condition

Nearby uses
Significance to human community
DATA NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit
GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

GEOGRAPHIC SETTING/SOIL AND MINERAL RESOURCES

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
DRAINAGE (permeability; depth to bedrock; wet, poorly drained and organic soils, etc.)
SOIL TYPES
Soil and/or drainage limitations for development
ELEVATION AND SLOPES
Soil relationship to slopes; erosion potential
MINERAL DEPOSITS (metallic and non-metallic)
STRATIGRAPHY AND ROCK TYPES
Rugged terrain, high relief topography
QUALITY OF RESOURCE(S)
Accessibility

Condition
Nearby uses
Significance for mineral extraction, development, or recreation
DATA NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit
GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

GROUNDWATER/WATER SUPPLY

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
WATER SUPPLY - Quantity, quality, availability
Agricultural
Domestic
Industry/commerce
DISCHARGE TO GROUNDWATER - Activities
Agriculture
Industry/commerce
GROUNDWATER SYSTEM
Aquifer discharge - location and description
Aquifer recharge - location and description

Supply considerations
QUALITY OF RESOURCE
Accessibility
Condition
Nearby uses
Significance to human community, local and regional ecosystem
DATE NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit

GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY HUMAN ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES INVENTORY

HUMAN HEALTH/ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
AIR QUALITY overall and specific concerns
Transportation corridor issues
Industry/Commercial development issues
WATER QUALITY
Drinking water quality and availability
Recreation water quality and availability
CLIMATE
NOISE

INDUSTRY/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Pollution prevention activities in place
Zoning and management of "brownfields" for development
QUALITY SUMMARY
Condition
Significance to human community, local and regional ecosystem
DATE NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit
GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

PLANT COMMUNITIES

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
WOODLANDS
• yes • no
Types
GRASSLANDS
• yes • no
Types
WETLANDS
• yes • no
Types
UNIQUE OR REMNANT PLANT COMMUNITIES
Describe
RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES
List

QUALITY OF RESOURCE
Accessibility
Condition
Nearby uses
Significance to local or regional ecosystems
DATA NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit
GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES/WATER SUPPLY

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
SURFACE WATER RESOURCE
Lakes/ponds - resource description and water quality ratings
Rivers/streams - resource description, stream order, and water quality ratings
WATER SUPPLY - quantity, quality, availability
Agriculture
Domestic
Industrial/commercial
DISCHARGE TO SURFACE WATER - Point source and nonpoint source activities
Agriculture
Industry/commerce

Urban/suburban community sources: Consider roads, parking lots, building roof runoff, public and private property practices
UNIQUE NATURAL WATER COMMUNITIES
(Wetlands, shorelands, bogs, floodplains, estuaries, etc.)
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
QUALITY OF RESOURCE(S)
Accessibility
Condition
Nearby uses
Significance to human community, local and regional ecosystem
DATE NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit

GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY HUMAN ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES INVENTORY

WASTE REDUCTION PRACTICES

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
RECYCLING - EDUCATION AND SERVICES
Residential
Business
Government/School
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION
Education
Services
FARM AND BUSINESS - VERY SMALL QUANTITY HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION
Education
Services

INDUSTRY POLLUTION PREVENTION AUDIT SERVICES
Data needed:
Additional information
Site visit(s)
Interpretation of site data or visit
GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

STUDY AREA
Name
Geographic location, community map correlation
HABITAT, describe in terms of the following wildlife needs:
Breeding
Feeding
Resting
Wintering
WDNR Habitat Designation
Federal or State regulations regarding habitat quality and related permitted uses
Comments
UNIQUE HABITAT
Does the area offer habitat for rare, endangered, or unique species?

Comments
WILDLIFE SPECIES AND POPULATIONS
QUALITY OF RESOURCE
Accessibility
Condition
Nearby uses
Significance to local and regional ecosystem
DATA NEEDED
Additional resource data
Site visit
Interpretation of site data or visit

GOALS FOR THE RESOURCE OR SITE
Resource use possibilities
Management options in place
Management options to consider