

D. Agricultural Resources Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal:

1. Protect agricultural resources in the Cottage Grove area.

Objectives:

1. Protect productive agricultural lands from premature development.
2. Preserve productive agricultural lands from quasi-rural residential, commercial, and industrial development.
3. Discourage the proliferation of low-density unsewered development in the unincorporated areas around the Village.



Policies:

1. Encourage compact urban development with full public facilities and services, and work with nearby towns to strictly limit the amount of unsewered development within the Village's ETJ in an effort to preserve agricultural land.
2. Use a long-term urban service area boundary to provide general guidance over long-term intent for development and preservation in the area.
3. Utilize the Village extraterritorial land division approval authority to review subdivision plats and certified survey maps in areas planned for agricultural preservation or future urban expansion, ensuring that development occurs in the appropriate location, at the appropriate time, and is consistent with Village plans and ordinances.
4. Assist surrounding communities in the exploration of programs to promote the long-term viability of agricultural uses. Opportunities to consider might include purchase or transfer of development rights programs (PDR and TDR), community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, local farm markets, promotion of local products at area stores and restaurants, and general educational type opportunities.
5. Encourage new economic development based on bio-based products and industries in Cottage Grove.

E. Agricultural Resource Programs and Recommendations

Promoting Compact Urban Development to Preserve Agricultural Lands

Cottage Grove is a village and, like most communities that provide municipal services and utilities, it has grown in a fairly compact configuration. From time to time, development proposals for areas in towns adjacent to the Village's municipal limits have advocated large-lot residential development. This type of large-lot development impedes the Village's ability to provide municipal facilities in an efficient, cost-effective manner. This type of development also uses up agricultural land at rate 5 to 25 times faster than compact, sewer development. This *Plan* intends to implement agricultural preservation objectives by guiding future development into areas planned for municipal service extension. In general, this *Plan* advises that the Village strongly advocate for limits to residential development served by on-site septic systems in areas surrounding the Village or within the long-term growth areas.