

WHY VOTE YES?

We are at a cross-road in Washington County.

Since 1995, well over 2 square miles per year of our rural landscape have been converted to urban or residential uses each year - double the rate from the previous 30 years!

Almost half of new home construction has been occurring on large unsewered lots in rural areas.

If we keep this up, what will the county look like in the future? Look south and see.

The problem is clear - and so is the solution.

We need to start preserving farmland and natural areas now. Here's why....

1. Land Preservation Preserves Water Resources

Farmland and natural areas allow rain and melting snow to seep through the soil into the groundwater, replenishing our drinking water supplies while supporting local lake levels and stream flow. Open spaces also help minimize runoff, water pollution and downstream flooding while providing wildlife habitat, scenic vistas and outdoor recreation opportunities.

2. Land Preservation Improves Local Quality of Life

Community and business leaders rely on local quality of life factors to make a community attractive for employees and their families. Good management of community growth and the protection of open space, natural areas and agricultural lands in the rural areas, conveys a powerful quality of life statement for the entire county.

3. Land Preservation Protects Property Values

Property values are enhanced when open space is preserved. The opportunity to view open space, natural areas and wildlife, or enjoy outdoor recreation near your home adds to its value.

4. Land Preservation is Good for the Local Economy

Agriculture is an industry that is already here – and going strong. In Washington County, agriculture supports 5,000 jobs and pumps \$630 million into the local economy each year. Numerous local businesses either branch off or service agriculture. Land preservation encourages investment in local farms, which helps maintain a healthy economic diversity in the county. Retention of an existing industry is good economic strategy.



5. Land Preservation Provides Locally Grown Food and Fuel

Population projections and the need for more sustainable food and fuel supplies add up to a growing demand for locally grown farm products. Land preservation helps set aside the best farmland in the county to help meet these needs – for today’s and tomorrow’s markets.

6. Land Preservation Promotes Sustainable Land Use

Land preservation helps direct growth near existing urban centers, where public services can be provided in a cost-effective manner. This in turn helps control property taxes. A countywide land preservation program will encourage local communities to plan and work together toward a shared land use vision for the good of the county.

7. Land Preservation Maintains Our Rural Character

Scenic vistas of farmland and our beautiful Kettle Moraine landscape define the “rural character” of Washington County and remind us of our heritage. A land preservation program would allow for community growth without sacrificing our rural landscape or the agricultural industry. It would also maintain a sense of appreciation for the essential role of agriculture in our lives.

8. Land Preservation Invests in Our Children’s Future

Clean water, scenic vistas, locally grown food and fuel, tourism, wildlife habitat, prospering communities, diverse employment and recreational opportunities....our children and grandchildren will thank us for investing in land preservation.

IT’S UP TO YOU!



www.lcpwc.org/voteyes

*The final decision to create a countywide land preservation program is up to you, the voter, through an **APRIL 3, 2007** countywide binding referendum.*

Please VOTE YES

to set aside at least \$800,000 each of the next 10 years for land preservation. This amount represents less than 1% of the county’s total annual budget or 10% of existing county sales tax revenues. No tax increase is needed, just some forward thinking and a change in priorities. Under the referendum language, all money spent on land preservation must be equally matched by other funding sources.

Saving Our Land, Water, Heritage ~ It’s Right for Washington County

Paid for by Washington County Citizens for Farmland & Natural Areas, William Neureuther, Treasurer