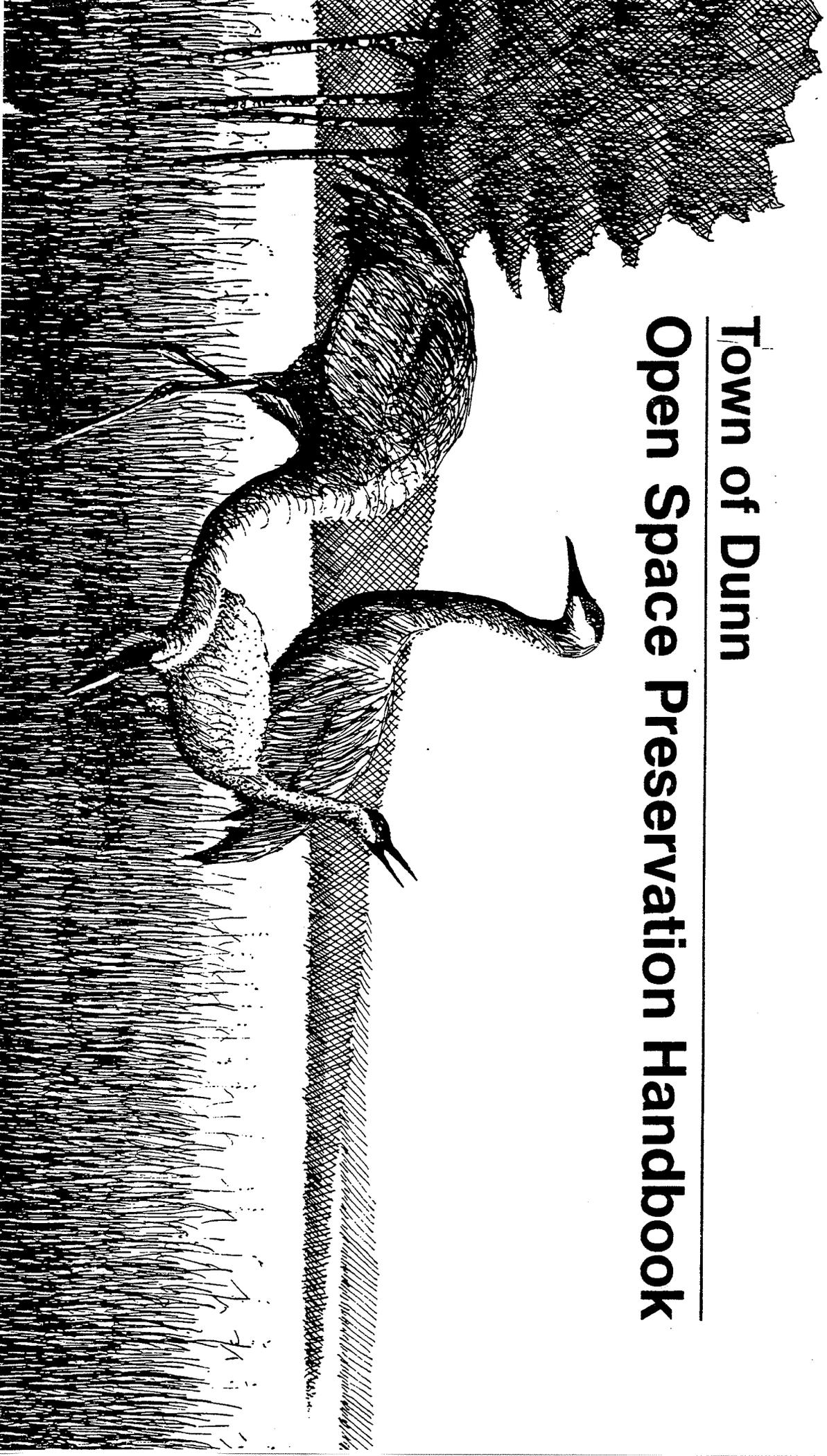




Town of Dunn

Open Space Preservation Handbook



The cover shows a pair of sandhill cranes and their chick. The cranes are a symbol of the Town of Dunn's natural heritage. Aldo Leopold, in his *Marshland Elegy*, observed that:

"A sense of time lies thick and heavy on such a place. Yearly since the Ice Age it has awakened each spring to the clangor of cranes. The peat layers that comprise the bog are laid down in the basin of an ancient lake. The cranes stand, as it were, upon the sodden pages of their own history. These peats are the compressed remains of the mosses that clogged the pools, of the tamaracks that spread over the moss, of the cranes that bugled over the tamaracks since the retreat of the ice sheet . . . Their annual return is the ticking of the geologic clock . . . The ultimate value in these marshes is wildness, and the crane is wildness incarnate."

Town of Dunn

Open Space Preservation Handbook

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PREFACE

The first element of progress is to maintain what we already have. For the past year, we have been looking at the Town of Dunn and trying to determine how its natural and cultural resources can be protected in the path of change. The project was a combined effort between the Environmental Awareness Center study team and the Town of Dunn Open Space Study Committee. This handbook is the result of our collective thought and work.

On our bus tour last August, we stopped at the Madison Retriever Club to get a good view of Hook Lake. While being treated to a view of a pair of sandhill cranes, we also saw a trainer laboriously training a Labrador to retrieve ducks. This show of hard work and dedication reminded us just what was required of town residents if they truly wanted to preserve those things they value about their town. We hope that our handbook will provide some direction to the continuous task of local stewardship of the land.

We would like to thank the Town of Dunn for giving us the opportunity to work with the members of the Open Space Study Committee. We hope that they learned as much from us as we learned from them. We would also like to thank the many other people who contributed their valuable time and ideas to this project. With their help, we hope we have shown some of the great potential that exists for local citizens and the units of government that serve them to preserve their heritage.



TOWN of DUNN

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To the Readers of this Handbook:

The open space study report which you are about to read started with the hope of developing new insights into the land and water formations that make up the natural heritage of the Town of Dunn. For the purposes of the study, the committee identified and evaluated two geologic regions within the township -- the glacial moraine area in the southern part and the Yahara River Valley basin in the northern two thirds. The specific areas discussed in this handbook are the town's woodlands, lakes, streams, and wetlands, as well as the town's underground water patterns. The handbook also provides information on wildlife, fisheries and historical resources which today exist in the area. Maps and charts are included to illustrate in greater detail the location of these important natural resources.

All of these resources, when used and protected in the proper balance can result in present and future generations enjoying the rewards of our productive agricultural soils and at the same time control and reduce soil erosion and the pollution of our lakes and streams. Our wetlands and woodlots when left undisturbed can help preserve our wildlife and natural vegetation and thus minimize excessive changes in these two critical areas.

We on the committee will feel that our time and efforts have been well rewarded if this report increases awareness on the part of all the town's citizens of the need for concern about land and water conservation. We will all need to work together in a manner that does not diminish the usefulness of our natural resources for future generations.

Our special thanks go to Tom Lamm and his associates who gathered and assembled the detailed information which makes this handbook a practical and useful document.

Sincerely,
Town of Dunn
Open Space Study Committee

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*Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field until
everywhere belongs to them and they are the sole inhabitants of the
land.*

—ISAIAH 5:8