

West Souris River IWMP

Dennis County & Southwest Development Plan

Take-away points

Water & Shoreland

- Development will be encouraged in a manner which ensures that waterways, waterbodies, shoreland areas and groundwater resources are sustained. *(DC & SW)*
- The preservation and reintroduction of native vegetation will be encouraged in sensitive environmental areas, such as along the shorelines of lakes, rivers, creeks and streams in order to stabilize the banks, to filter run-off and to maintain the quality of water in these waterways. *(DC & SW)*
- Land shall not be cleared, cultivated or developed to the waters edge of creeks, streams and lakes. A minimum 10-meter wide buffer of undisturbed native vegetation shall be retained to reduce erosion and sedimentation, protect water quality, fish habitat and provide wildlife cover. *(SW)*
- Waterways, water bodies and shore-lands in the Planning District may require protection to limit impacts of development. This may be achieved through site-specific planning programs and cooperation with Manitoba Water Stewardship. The extent of protection required will be directly related to the characteristics of the local situation. The size and configuration of the waterway, water body or shore-land; the need for public access; environmental characteristics; and economic potential will all have a bearing on the method of protection adopted. In order to provide protection, shore-land reserves may be created. *(DC & SW)*
- The use of best management practices for agricultural enterprises, particularly with regard to manure and water management, and chemical applications, must be implemented in order to minimize risks to groundwater and surface water resources. *(DC & SW)*

Natural Areas & Environmental Conservation

- Although there is a desire to provide for conservation areas, there is also a concern that these areas should be balanced with agricultural interests, particularly with regard to the potential loss of land for agricultural activities. Therefore, where privately initiated habitat conservation land leases, or land transfers are proposed for consideration to Manitoba Conservation, the Department will be encouraged to consult with the District municipalities affected prior to approving the designation of a private habitat conservation area. *(DC & SW)*
- Public access to natural areas and wildlife and fisheries habitat will be encouraged, where feasible, to foster appreciation for and enjoyment of nature, but such access should not lead to levels of activity which will exceed the

capability of the area to sustain the environment and ecosystem integrity. In cases where private lands are involved, access to these areas will be subject to the approval of landowners. (DC & SW)

- Encourage implementation and inter-municipal co-operation in the application of measures to protect the District's natural environment, outlined in the West Souris River and the Turtle Mountain Conservation District management plans (DC & SW) and the Oak Lake Aquifer Management Plans. (DC)
- The identification and protection of significant natural areas, sensitive environmental areas, and wildlife and fisheries habitats will be encouraged within the planning district. (DC & SW) Where there is potential for human activities to stress the environment may require designating these activities as conditional uses in the municipal zoning by-laws. (SW)
- Protect natural areas and habitats, from incompatible or potentially incompatible uses where:
 - Rare or endangered flora and fauna have received Provincial designation and protection under *The Endangered Species Act* (DC & SW) or Federal designation under *The Species At Risk Act*. (SW)
- Good stewardship of the Southwest Planning District's natural environment begins with the Plan acknowledging the potential for human activity to have environmental impacts and by determining the location of environmentally sensitive areas and by directing only uses to these areas, which respect their environmental limits. (SW)

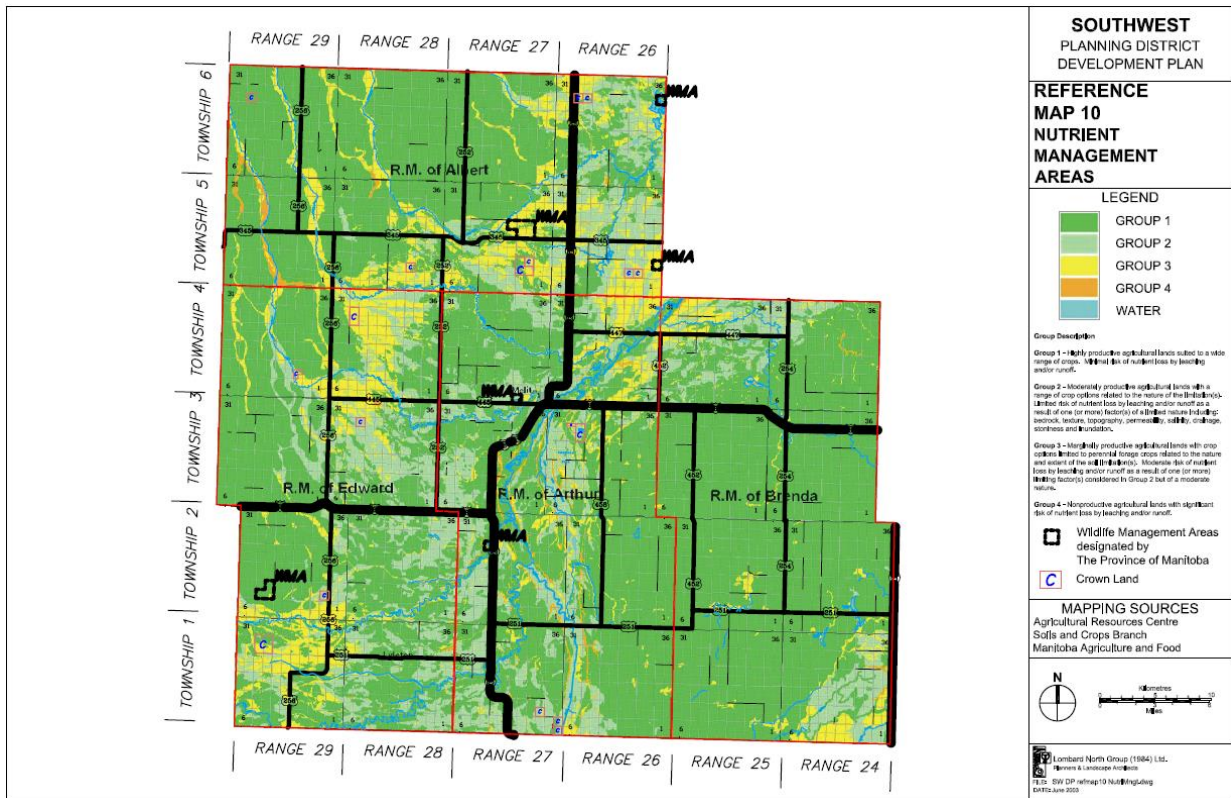
Hazard Lands, Flooding & Erosion

- Activities which alter existing slopes and may accelerate or promote erosion or bank instability should be prohibited, unless appropriate mitigative measures are taken to minimize the potential of such erosion or bank instability. (SW)
- Existing tree and vegetation cover should be preserved where appropriate to reduce erosion and maintain bank stability. (SW)
- Land assessed as having high risk of soil erosion due to slope and soil type will be encouraged to employ soil management and agricultural practices which minimize the risk of impacts of erosion and impacts upon surface water. (SW)
- Intensive livestock operations and manure application in areas defined as high risk for erosion shall be subject to an impact assessment and implementation of measures to reduce livestock farming operations risk upon the environment. (SW)

Nutrient Management Areas/Guidelines (*only in SW*)

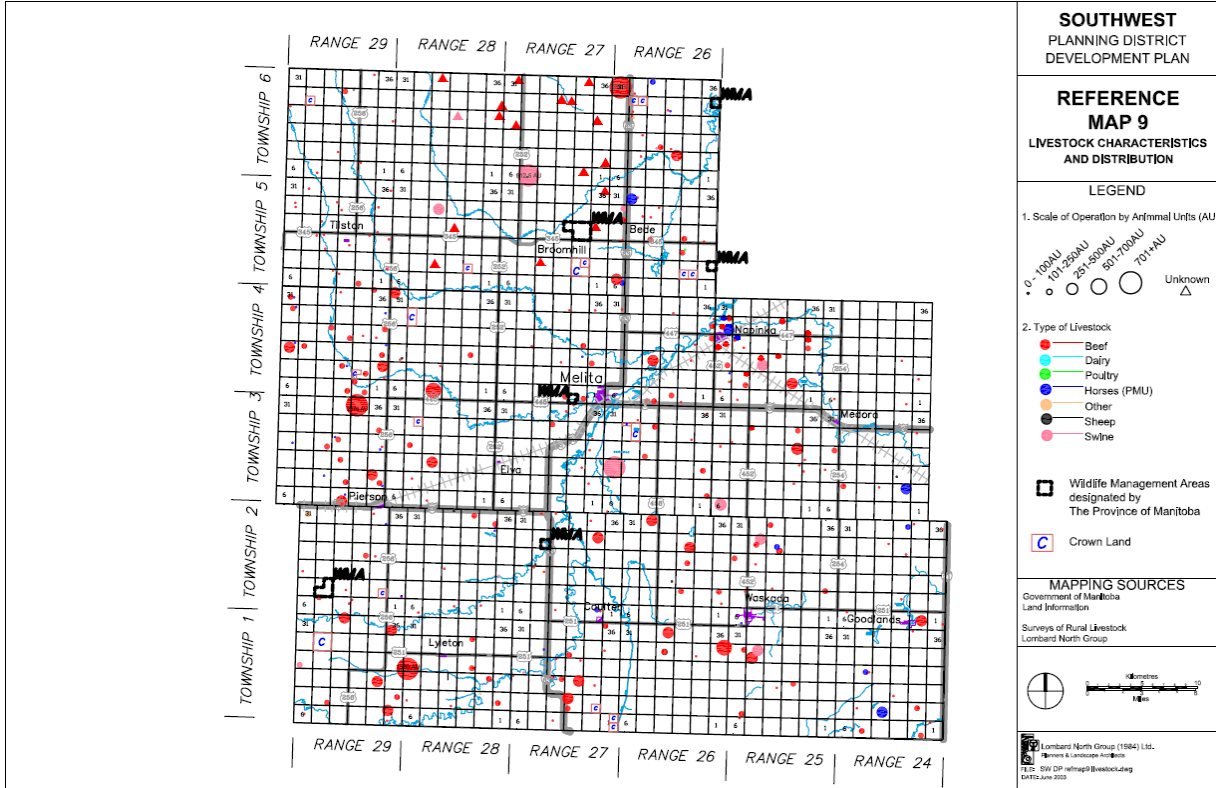
- Reference Map #10 will guide development and use of environmentally sustainable nutrient management guidelines for District agriculture and rural development. The nutrient management guidelines will be based upon the determination of the maximum annual nitrogen application rates determined by crop uptake potential and leaching risk based on season of application and soil properties.

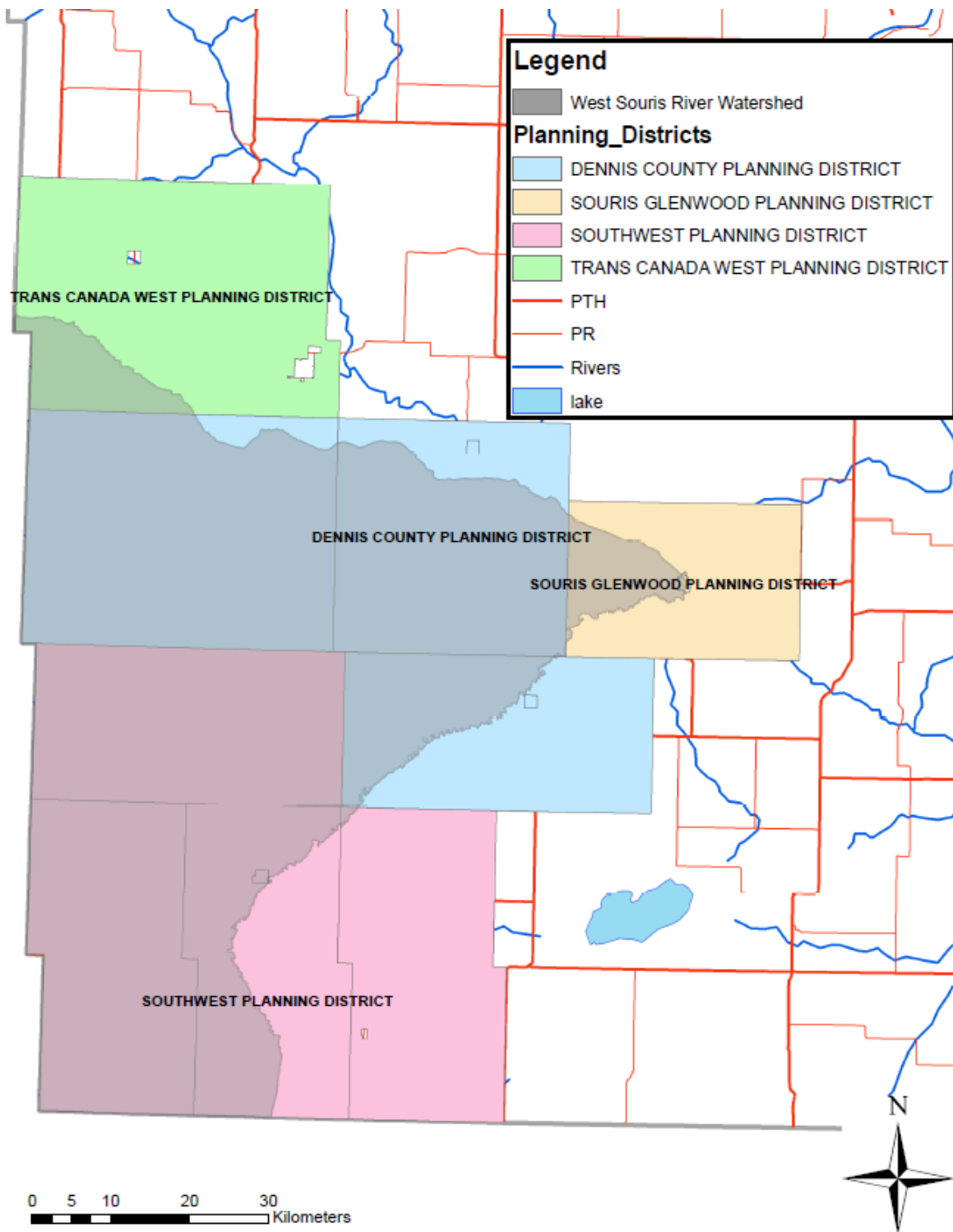
- Under the technical guidance of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Conservation use the guidelines to promote best agricultural practices and sustainable rural development in the protection, maintenance and/or conservation of soil, surface and ground water resources within the Planning District.
- Intensive livestock operations and application of manure and chemical nutrients will be monitored by Manitoba Conservation under provincial regulations within the Nutrient Management Soil Groups by the Department of Conservation. Monitoring may require annual assessment of residual nutrient levels in the soil, ground and local surface water by a qualified professional demonstrating:
 - The development and on-going operation of activities associated with the land use will not pose a risk or cause pollution of the soil, surface water or groundwater resources; and
 - The precautionary measures which are required to be taken to sufficiently mitigate the potential risks of endangering soil, surface and groundwater quality resources.



Agriculture

- Highly productive prime agricultural lands should not be developed for non-agricultural uses, unless there is no suitable alternate site or if the development meets an important public need (DC & SW)





DC = Dennis County Planning District Development Plan
 SW = Southwest Planning District Development Plan