

Woodlands

The planning area contains scattered wooded areas. Most of these are located on the steepest slopes of the drumlins, and in lowland woodlands in inter-drumlin wetlands and along river and stream corridors. The most common species are oak, elm, and maple. The sparsely wooded condition of the remainder of the planning area is due to a combination of rich soils, few steep slopes, and residential development activity which tends to place high value on wooded sites. As such, the remaining woodlands in and around the Village are valuable contributors to the area's character and beauty; particularly, the relatively uncommon upland oak savannah groves.

B. Natural Resources Inventory – Water Resources

Drainage Basins

The northwest parts of the Village lie within the Door Creek drainage basin, which drains southerly into Lake Kegonsa and the Yahara River. The southern and eastern part of the Village is in the Koshkonong Creek drainage basin, which drains southeasterly into Lake Koshkonong and the Rock River.

Floodplains

Flood hazard areas within the planning area are located along the Koshkonong Creek and Door Creek. These have been identified and mapped by the FEMA for risk management purposes. The 100-year flood plain—where the flooding probability is greater than 1% in any given year—is generally restricted to no development by State Statute-authorized local zoning. Floodplains are included within environmental corridor areas as depicted on the maps in this *Plan*. However, refer to the National Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) produced by FEMA for official delineation and elevation of floodplain boundaries.

Groundwater

Groundwater resources are plentiful in the planning area at both shallow and deep levels. The shallow dolomite aquifers are likely to be linked to certain surface water features. In areas of granular soils, these aquifers are susceptible to contamination from both surface and subterranean sources. Most private wells draw from this shallow aquifer. The deep sandstone and limestone aquifers in the planning area are generally of higher quality and considered substantially less susceptible to contamination. In this regard, a few deep common wells are preferred over numerous shallow private wells.

The Village has a Wellhead Protection Plan and accompanying wellhead protection ordinance. As the Village expands, there will be a need to update this *Plan* and the overlay zoning district pattern.

Rivers and Streams

The primary surface water bodies in the planning area are Koshkonong Creek to the east and Door Creek to the west. The Village does not discharge its municipal wastewater into these water bodies because it is served by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) via a force main generally located along the Wisconsin and Southern railroad line from Vilas Road into the City of Madison. The ultimate outfall of MMSD is Badfish Creek located south of the City of Madison.

Wetlands

Wetland areas are located along streams and drainageways and in isolated low spots. Most of the significant wetlands in the Cottage Grove area are immediately west and southeast of the Village, associated with tributaries of Door Creek and Koshkonong Creek. There are also two isolated wetland areas within the Village, west of Forreston Drive and north of Cottage Grove Road. These wetlands have been identified and mapped by WisDNR. These areas are important for aquifer recharge, groundwater and surface water quality improvement, and wildlife habitat. Generally, these areas are restricted to no development by State Statute-authorized local zoning.

Wetlands are included within environmental corridor boundaries, as depicted on all the maps in this *Plan*. However, refer to the WisDNR Wetland Inventory Maps for official delineation of wetland boundaries.

C. Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Resources

Rare and Endangered Species

WisDNR, through its Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI), maps and documents locations of rare or endangered terrestrial and aquatic species. To find out if a proposed project may impact rare species, developers may request from WisDNR an Endangered Resources Review. Through this process WisDNR will identify for the applicant rare species, high-quality natural communities, and significant natural features in or near the proposed project area. As shown on Map 3, occurrences of rare or endangered terrestrial species have been found in the area to the southwest of the Village—mostly to the east of Vilas Road and south of CTH BB.

Protected Areas

Currently under development, the **McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park** consists 220 acres of parkland. When completed, the park will serve as a combined recreational and conservancy area which will include group camping, picnic areas, hiking and bicycle trails, equestrian trails, and prairie and wetland restoration. The restored wetland area will reduce flooding and bank erosion in the area and provide habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, aquatic insects, and amphibians.



Beginning in Cottage Grove and ending in Waukesha, the **Glacial Drumlin State Trail** travels through ten small towns, farmlands, and glacial topography along 52 miles of abandoned rail corridor. The trail was developed in 1986 to provide year-round recreation opportunities such as cycling, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing. The Glacial Drumlin State Trail is listed on the Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail System.

Patrick Marsh, located to the north of Cottage Grove in the rapidly urbanizing area of Sun Prairie, was the first wetland mitigation bank site in Wisconsin. The marsh is used as an outdoor classroom for students at Patrick Marsh Middle School and is also a popular area for fishing, bird watching, walking, and nature study. Patrick Marsh is also listed as one of Wisconsin's Land Legacy Places, which identifies and provides preservation objectives for places of ecological importance.

The **Norman Vethe School Forest**, located east of Cottage Grove Elementary School just north of E. Taylor Street, is a 68-acre facility owned by the Monona Grove School District. The School District used WisDNR funds to install prairie restoration areas and trails on the property.