

7.0 AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES¹

Introduction

This chapter provides an inventory of existing agricultural, natural, and cultural resources in the Village of Slinger. In addition, issues associated with these resources are discussed and a vision, with supporting goals and objectives, are presented.

Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Vision

While accommodating residential and commercial growth, the Village has helped to protect the woodlands, wetlands and agricultural areas in surrounding towns. Within the Village natural features are preserved through effective ordinances. Trees, undeveloped green space, and creative landscaping are important ingredients that contribute to community character.

As has been the tradition, in 2025 most cultural and entertainment venues are easily accessible in nearby cities. Local restaurants, taverns, school plays and activities, and a community center offer additional cultural and entertainment choices to residents. Every year, Slinger Fest brings residents together to celebrate the community.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law includes 14 goals for local comprehensive planning. The Village of Slinger believes that the goals listed below specifically relate to planning for agricultural and natural resources:

- Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and environmental corridors.
- Protection of economically productive "agricultural" areas.
- Protection of agricultural lands for agricultural purposes.

Agricultural Resources

Prime agricultural lands have been identified by SEWRPC, as lands which are well suited for agricultural use and which meet specific criteria regarding agricultural soil capabilities and farm size. These criteria include:

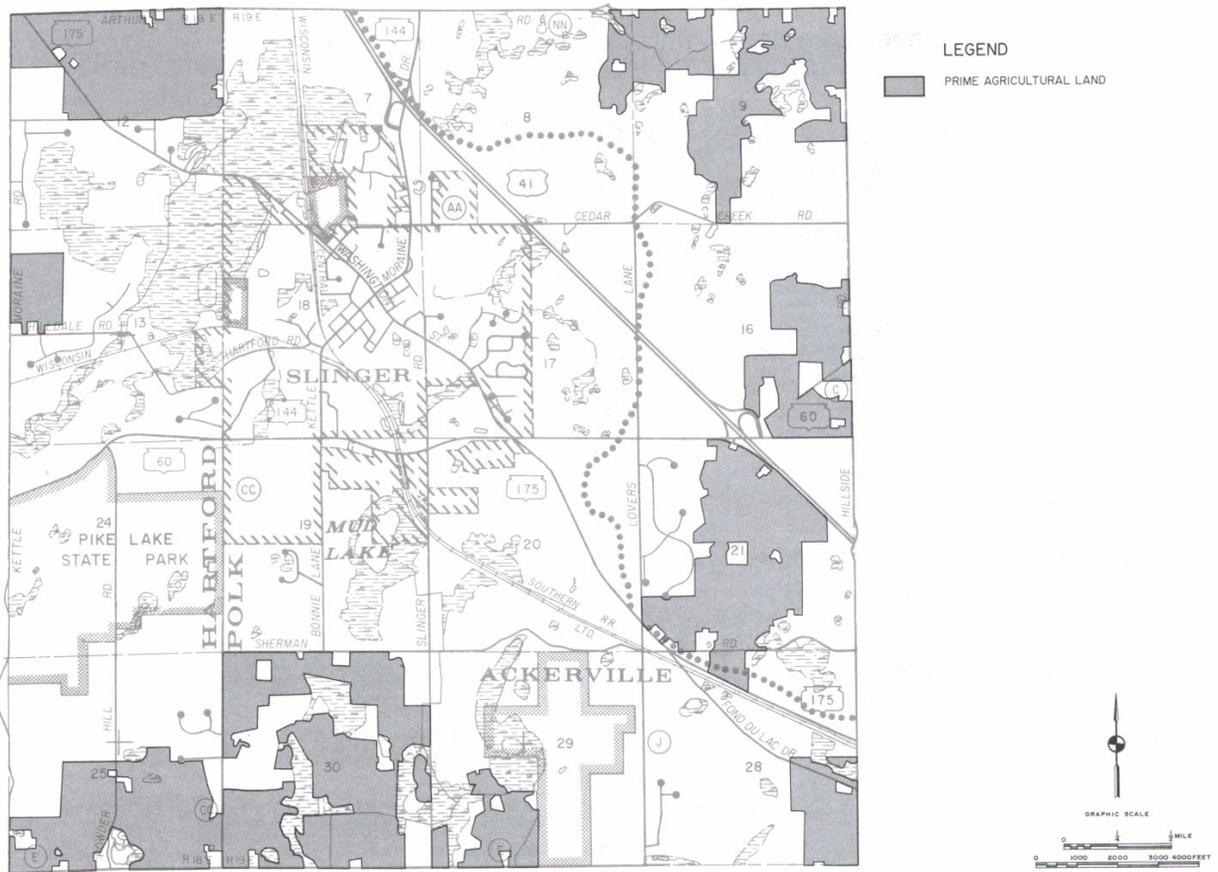
1. The farm unit must be at least 35 acres in area,
2. At least 50 percent of the farm unit must be covered by soils which meet U.S. Soil Conservation Standards for national prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance, and;

¹ The maps provided in this chapter are from the *1995 Village of Slinger Land Use and Street System Plan*. The Village boundaries have changed somewhat since these maps were created, but the information on these maps is still relevant for land use decision-making. As updated GIS-based natural resource maps become available from other sources (i.e. Washington County, SEWRPC, etc.), the Village of Slinger will seek to update these maps accordingly.

- The farm unit should be located in a block of farmland of at least 100 acres. Areas that meet these criteria around the Village of Slinger are shown on the map on the next page. There are no areas identified as prime farmland in or adjacent to the Village.

The *Washington County Farmland and Preservation Plan (1981)* defines prime agricultural land as prime agricultural land as a block of land at least 640 acres.

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS MAP IN THE VILLAGE OF SLINGER & SURROUNDING AREA



Source: U. S. Soil Conservation Service and SEWRPC.

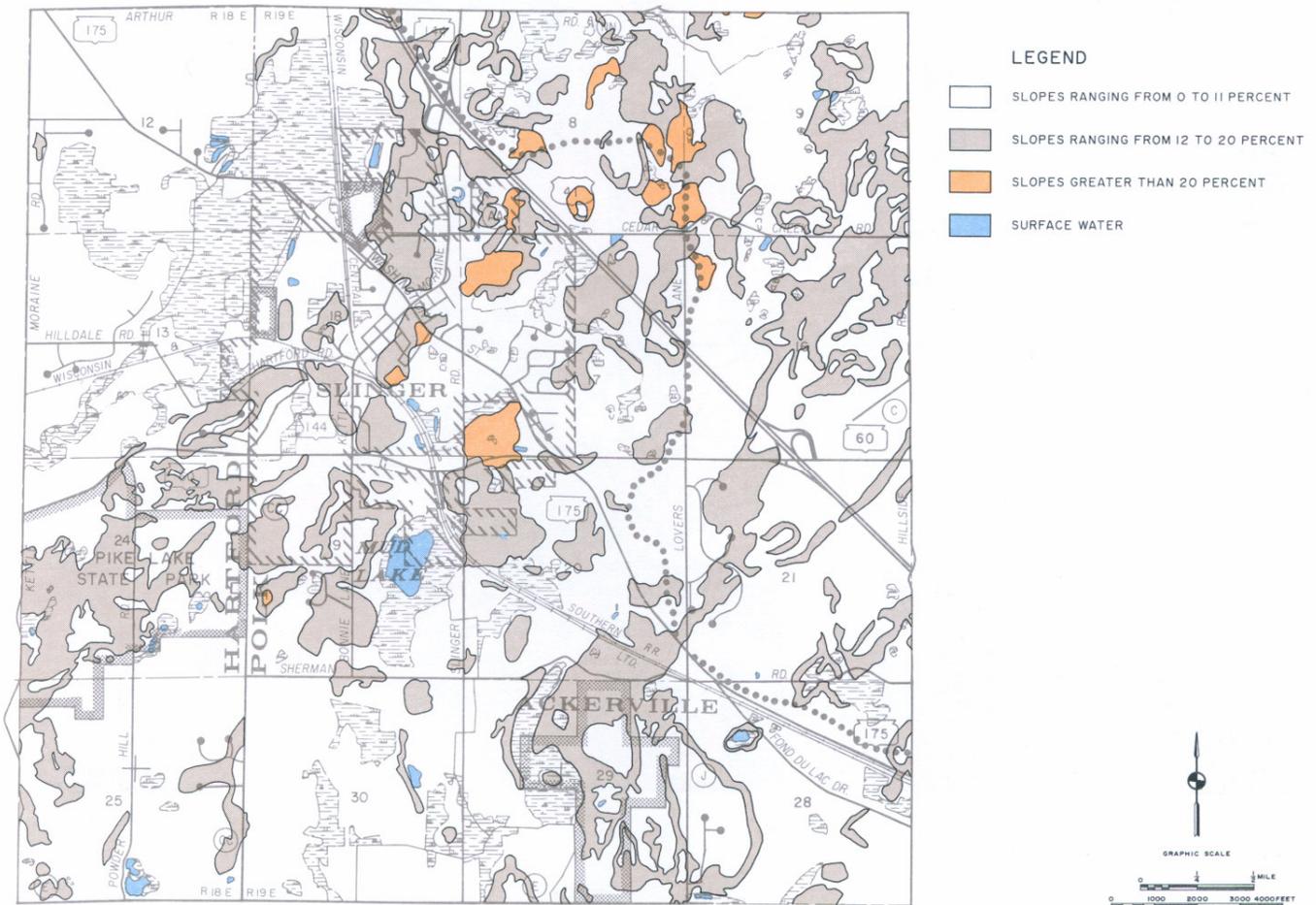
Natural Resources and Environmental Concerns²

Natural resources help to determine the potential for development. Geology, topography, drainage patterns, floodplains, wetlands, and soil characteristics are among the natural and environmental features that determine if an area is physically suitable for specific types of development. Preservation of natural resources (wetlands, surface and groundwater, woodlands, shorelines) is an important local and regional priority. These resources provide recreation opportunities that help to sustain the area economy and enhance the quality of life.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The topography, or relative elevation of the land surface, in the Village of Slinger and surrounding areas has been determined, generally, by the configuration of the bedrock geology, and, more specifically, by the overlying glacial deposits. In general, the topography of the area is level to gently rolling, with the low-lying areas associated with the perennial stream valleys and wetland areas.

SLOPE ANALYSIS MAP FOR THE VILLAGE OF SLINGER & SURROUNDING AREA



Source: U. S. Soil Conservation Service and SEWRPC.

Slope is an important determinant of land uses on a given parcel of land. Lands with steep slopes are generally poorly suited for urban development and for most agricultural purposes and, therefore, should be maintained as natural cover for wildlife habitat and erosion control. Lands with less severe slopes may be suitable for certain agricultural uses, such as pasture, and for certain urban uses, such as carefully designed low-density residential areas. Lands, which are gently sloping or nearly level, are best suited to agricultural production and to high-density residential, industrial, or commercial uses. It should also be noted that slope is directly related to water runoff and erosion hazards and, therefore, the type and extent of both urban and rural land uses should be carefully adjusted to the slope of the land. In general, slopes of 12 percent or greater should be considered unsuitable for urban development and most types of agricultural land uses and, thus, should be maintained in essentially natural, open uses.

The map on the previous page provides a slope analysis of the Slinger and surrounding vicinity. This analysis serves to identify areas, which have slopes ranging from 0 to 11 percent, 12 to 20 percent, and greater than 20 percent. Areas with slopes of 12 percent or greater present major difficulties for development and generally require excessive earth movement and grading, practices which destroy the natural cover, including trees. Slopes of 12 percent or greater are scattered throughout the area and occupy about 2,205 acres, or about 22 percent of the area illustrated by the maps in this chapter

The geology of the area reveals that glacial deposits range in depth from 20 to 200 feet, and there are no known areas of shallow bedrock or bedrock outcrop. The glacial deposits consist primarily of till, a mixture of material including clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders. The bedrock formation underlying the surface deposits in the area consists of Precambrian crystalline rocks, Cambrian sandstone, Ordovician dolomite, sandstone, shale and Silurian dolomite. The bedrock formations generally dip eastward at a rate of 10 feet per mile.

WATERSHEDS AND DRAINAGE

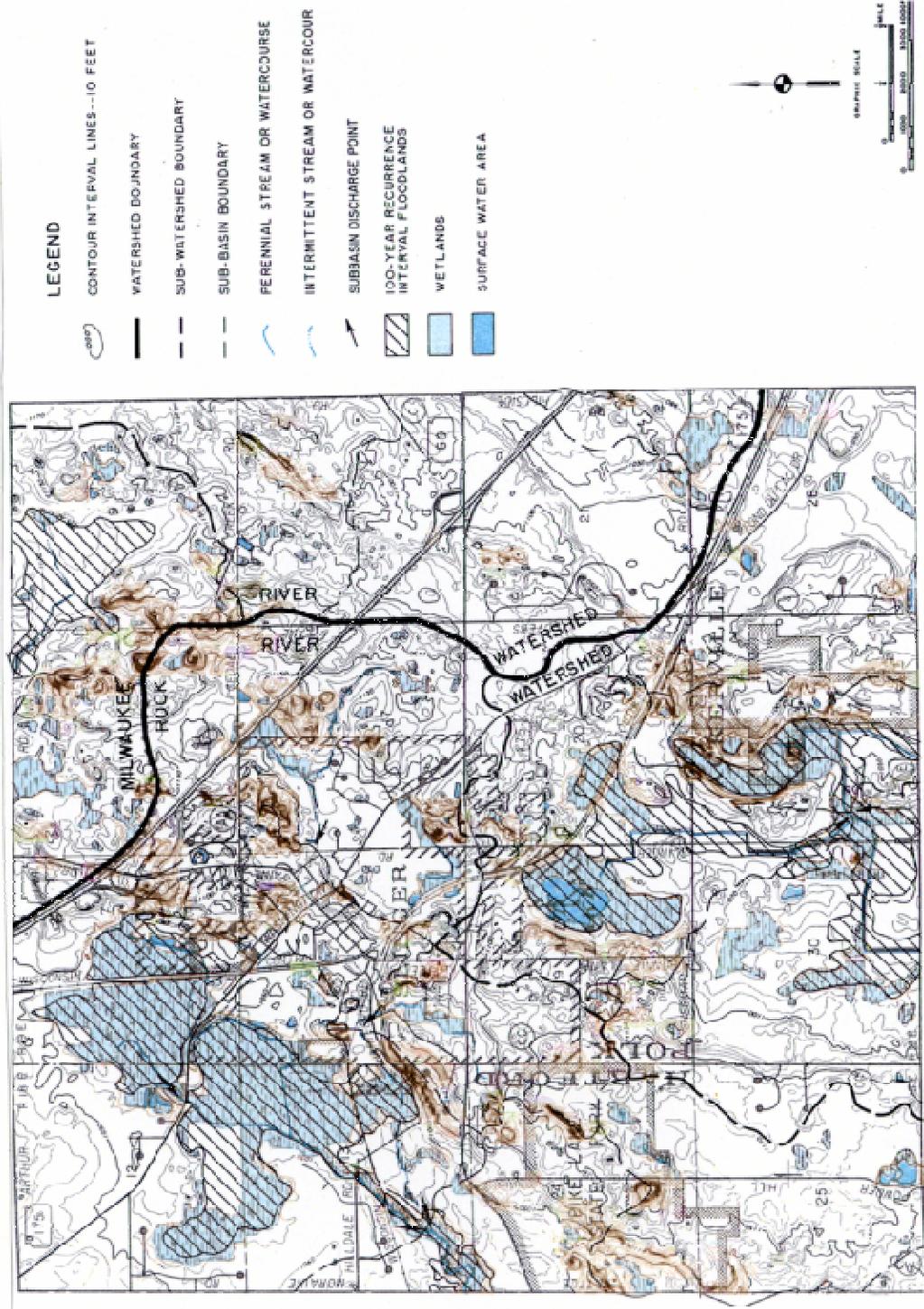
A subcontinental divide traverses the southeastern Wisconsin region and also the eastern portion of the greater Slinger area. As shown on the *Natural Features Map*, Slinger is located largely within the Rock River watershed, in turn a part of the larger Mississippi River drainage system. The Rock River watershed in the Slinger study area can be divided into two subwatersheds also illustrated on the map: the Rubicon River and Oconomowoc River subwatersheds. The easternmost portion of the Village is located within the Milwaukee River watershed, which is part of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River drainage system. The two subwatersheds in the Milwaukee River watershed in Slinger and surrounding areas are the Cedar Lake and Cedar Creek subwatersheds. All of the subwatersheds, in turn, may be further subdivided into individual drainage areas, termed subbasins, also shown on the *Natural Features Map*.

SURFACE WATER (NAVIGABLE WATERS)

Surface water resources, consisting of lakes, rivers, streams, and associated floodlands and wetlands, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base. Surface water resources influence the physical development, provide recreational opportunities, and enhance the aesthetic quality of the area. Lakes and streams constitute a focal point for water-related

NATURAL FEATURES MAP

TOPOGRAPHIC DATA FROM THE NATIONAL ELEVATION DATA SET (NED) AND
 WATERSHED FEATURES FROM THE NATIONAL WATERSHED DATA SET (NWDS)



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and SEWRPC.

recreational activities, provide an attractive setting for properly planned residential development, and, greatly enhance the aesthetic quality of the environment. Lakes and streams are readily susceptible to degradation through improper rural and urban land use development and management. Water quality can be degraded by excessive pollutant loads, including nutrient loads, by malfunctioning and improperly located onsite sewage disposal systems, by sanitary sewer overflows, urban runoff, including runoff from construction sites, and careless agricultural practices. The water quality of lakes and streams may also be adversely affected by excessive development of riverine areas in combination with the filling of peripheral wetlands, which removes valuable nutrient and sediment traps while adding nutrient and sediment sources. Surface water resources within the Slinger study area are shown on the *Natural Features Map*.

- **Lakes.** There are no major lakes that is, lakes having a surface area of 50 acres or more, within Slinger or the surrounding area. There are, however, two major lakes located nearby, Big Cedar Lake and Pike Lake, respectively. Mud Lake, located to the south of the Village, is classified as a minor lake, that is, a lake or pond having a surface area of less than 50 acres. Mud Lake has a surface water area of about 23 acres.
- **Rivers and Streams.** Perennial and certain intermittent streams in the area are shown on the *Natural Features Map*. Perennial streams are defined as watercourses, which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. Intermittent streams are defined as watercourses, which do not maintain such a continuous flow throughout the year. Within the Village of Slinger study area, a total of about 11 linear miles of perennial and intermittent rivers and streams were identified.

SHORELINES

Shoreland areas in the Village of Slinger are limited to stream banks. The Shoreland/Wetland Ordinance adopted by Washington County regulates shoreland uses and development by requiring a permit for any filling or grading activity within 300' of any navigable stream as a minimum to protect the stream from harmful impacts. The Village of Slinger supports the county's efforts to protect shorelands with similar regulations.

GROUNDWATER

The Village of Slinger is located in an area of generally shallow depths to the groundwater table. The groundwater reservoir provided by the glacial till deposits and underlying undifferentiated Platteville, Decorah, and Galena limestone bedrock formations are the source supply for on-site wells in the area and are also the principal supply source for the Slinger area public water supply system.

Contamination risks from land use practices are a threat to groundwater resources. Potential contaminant sources include old, unregulated landfills, nitrates from failed septic systems or farm runoff, pesticides, and leaking underground storage tanks. All of these sources are presently regulated through ordinances or technical assistance services by various county and state agencies.

WETLANDS

Wetlands act as a natural filtering system for sediment and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrates. They also serve as a natural buffer, protecting shorelines and stream banks from erosion. Wetlands are also essential in providing wildlife habitat, flood control, and groundwater recharge. Due to these benefits, local, county and state regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands and shorelands. Wetlands in the town are shown on the *Natural Features Map*.

Wetland areas are generally unsuited or poorly suited for most agricultural or urban development purposes. Wetlands, however, have important recreational and ecological values. Wetlands contribute to flood control and water quality enhancement, since such areas naturally serve to store excess runoff temporarily, thereby tending to reduce peak flows and to trap sediments, nutrients, and other water pollutants. Wetlands located in the Village and surrounding areas are identified on the *Natural Features Map*.

Additional important natural functions of wetlands which make them particularly valuable resources, include the provision of breeding, nesting, resting, and feeding grounds and predator escape cover for many forms of wildlife. They also serve as groundwater recharge and discharge areas. As shown on the *Natural Resources Map*, wetlands are distributed throughout the area. It should be noted that such areas as tamarack swamps and other lowland wooded areas are classified as wetlands, rather than woodlands, because the water table is located at, near, or above the land surface and such areas are generally characterized by hydric soils which support hydrophytic trees and shrubs.

FLOODPLAINS

Floodplains serve many important functions related to flood and erosion control, water quality, groundwater recharge and fish and wildlife habitats. Areas susceptible to flooding are considered unsuitable for development because of risks to lives and property. The floodlands of a river or stream are the wide, gently sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, the river or stream channel. For planning and regulatory purposes, floodlands are normally defined as the areas, excluding the channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. Floodland areas are generally not well suited to urban development, not only because of the flood hazard, but also because of the presence, usually, of high water tables and of soils poorly suited to urban use. The floodland areas, however, generally contain important elements of the natural resource base such as high-value woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and therefore, constitute prime locations for needed park and open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage indiscriminate and incompatible urban development on floodlands, and to encouraging compatible park and open space use.

The floodlands in and around Slinger are shown on the *Natural Features Map*. These areas encompass a total of 1,195 acres, or about 12 percent of the area shown.³

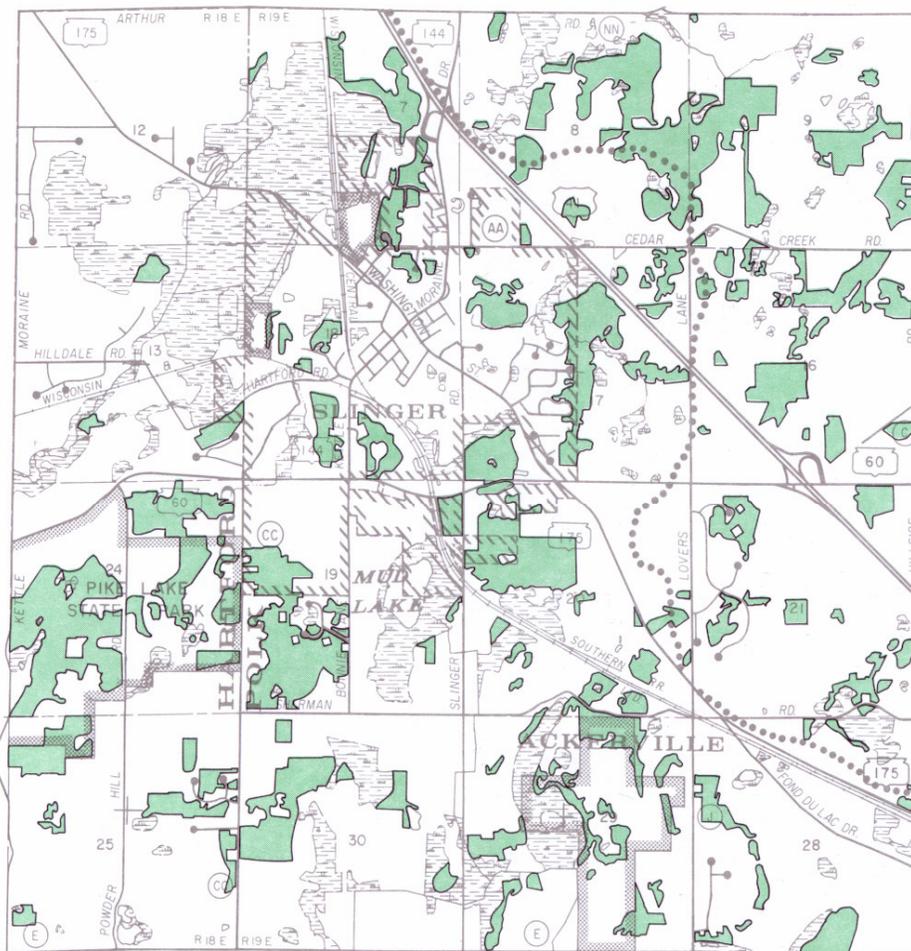
³ This figure includes the approximately 51 acres of surface water in lakes, rivers, and stream channels within the floodlands.

WOODLANDS

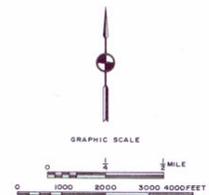
Woodlands are defined as those upland areas one acre or more in size having 17 or more deciduous trees per acre each measuring at least four inches in diameter at breast height and having 50 percent or more tree canopy coverage. Coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects are also identified as woodlands.

Woodlands have value beyond any monetary return for forest products. Under good management woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water, and regulating surface water runoff, the maintenance of woodlands within the area can contribute to the preservation of a diversity of plant and animal life in association with human life. Woodlands can and should be maintained for their total values; scenic, wildlife habitat, open space, educational, recreational, and air and water quality protection. Inventories of woodlands in and around Slinger were conducted by SEWRPC as part of its land use and cover inventories. The *Woodlands Map* illustrates that woodlands are scattered throughout the area. As previously noted, lowland wooded areas such as tamarack swamps were classified as wetlands. Based on the *Woodlands Map*, woodland areas covered about 1,469 acres, or 15 percent of the area, in 1985.

WOODLANDS IN THE VILLAGE OF SLINGER & SURROUNDING AREA MAP



LEGEND
WOODLANDS



Source: SEWRPC.

WILDLIFE HABITATS

Wildlife in Slinger and the surrounding area include upland game (such as squirrel), game birds (including pheasant), and waterfowl. The remaining wildlife habitat areas provide valuable recreational opportunities and constitute an invaluable aesthetic asset.



In 1985, SEWRPC and the WDNR conducted a cooperative inventory of the wildlife habitat, including the Slinger area. The results of that inventory as it pertains to the Village of Slinger and surrounding areas are presented on the *Wildlife Habitat Map*.

The inventory identified and delineated three classes of wildlife habitat:

- Class I – wildlife habitat areas containing good diversity of wildlife, of such size to meet all of the habitat requirements for each species, and generally located in proximity to other wildlife habitat areas;
- Class II – wildlife habitat areas generally lacking one of the three criteria necessary for a Class I designation; and
- Class III – wildlife habitat areas that are generally lacking two of the three criteria for placement in the Class I.

WILDLIFE HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

A primary threat to wildlife is **fragmentation** -- the breaking up of larger habitat areas into smaller sections.

Fragmentation decreases wildlife population sizes, isolates habitat areas and creates more edges – where two dissimilar habitats meet (i.e. grassland and residential subdivisions).

As shown on *Wildlife Habitat Map*, in the Village of Slinger and surrounding areas wildlife habitat generally occurs in association with existing surface water, wetland, and woodland resources. Wildlife habitat covered about 3,976 acres, or about 40 percent of the total area in 1985. Of this total habitat acreage, about 2,226 acres, or 56 percent, were rated Class I; about 1,016 acres, or 26 percent, were rated Class II; and about 734 acres, or 18 percent, were rated Class III. Class I wildlife habitat areas should be maintained in essentially natural, open uses.

The WDNR is concerned about loss of wetlands, aquatic habitat and open land to development as well as pollution to surface and groundwater. Moreover, simplification of diverse habitat and loss of special places that support rare species are also major concerns. The Village supports WDNR programs to protect wildlife habitats.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

There are many threatened and endangered plant and animal species in Washington County. Unfortunately, there is not a specific list or map available for the Village of Slinger. The WDNR does have county maps available of threatened and endangered species. These maps are very general and do not specially identify habitat areas within the county. The reason for this is because the WDNR does not want people to visit or otherwise intrude on the habitats of endangered and threatened species. The WDNR is attempting to identify and catalog endangered plant and animal species across the state. For a complete, up-to-date list, refer to

www.dnr.state.wi.us. The state and federal government have programs and laws in effect to protect threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the Village of Slinger and beyond.

EXOTIC AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Non-native, or exotic, plant and animal species have been recognized in recent years as a major threat to the integrity of native habitats and species, as well as a potential economic threat (damage to crops, tourist economy, etc). The WDNR requires that any person seeking to bring a non-native fish or wild animal for introduction in Wisconsin obtain a permit. The Village of Slinger can help combat exotic species by educating residents about non-native species and encouraging residents to use native plants in landscaping.

METALLIC AND NON-METALLIC MINING RESOURCES

As part of **NR 135**, Wisconsin Administrative Code, adopted in December 2000, any community in Wisconsin could adopt an ordinance to establish requirements for reclamation of non-metallic mines, such as gravel pits and rock quarries. If a community decided not to develop its own ordinance, a county could develop one that would also regulate operations. Likewise, regional planning agencies can develop ordinances for counties within their region. The ordinances must establish reclamation requirements to prevent owners and operators of quarries and gravel pits from abandoning their operations without proper reclamation of the mines. Washington County has adopted such an ordinance.

The process of siting a mine continues to be a local matter governed under existing zoning procedures by local authorities. The new reclamation requirements through NR 135 add to the status quo but do not replace or remove any other current means of regulation. The requirements neither regulate active mining process nor have any effect upon local zoning decisions related to the approval of new mine sites.

There are no metallic or non-metallic mining operations located in the Village. There is one abandoned quarry located west of the intersection of STH 175 and Lovers Lane.

SCENIC VIEWPOINTS

Scenic viewpoints are defined as areas that provide a panoramic or picturesque view of a variety of natural resource features. There are two important components of a scenic viewpoint, the picturesque view itself, which usually consists of a diversity of natural or cultural features, and the vantage point or viewpoints from the natural features are viewed. SEWRPC identified the scenic viewpoints in the Slinger area using three basic criteria:

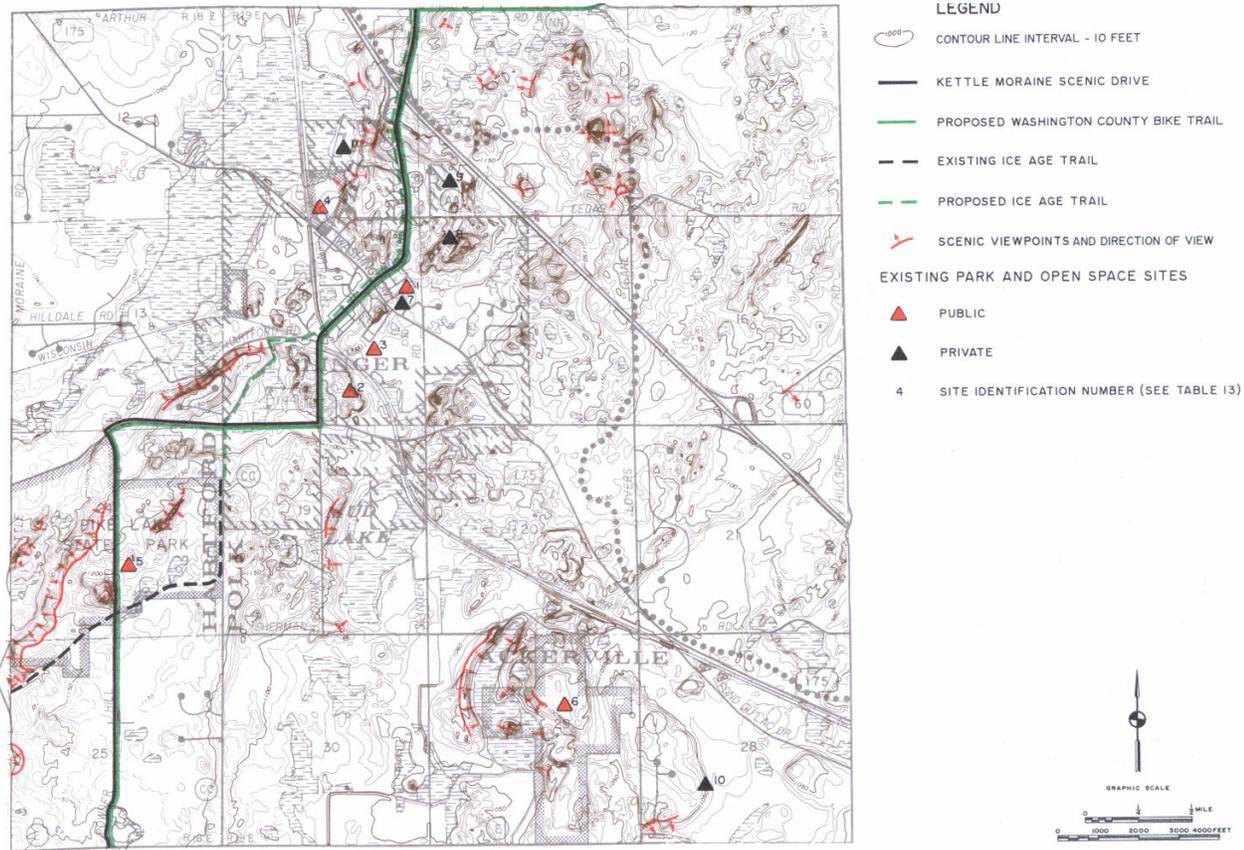
- 1) A variety of features to be viewed should exist harmoniously in natural or rural landscape;
- 2) There should be one dominant or particularly interesting feature, such as a river or lake which serves as a focal point of the picturesque view; and
- 3) The vantage point should permit an unobstructed view of the variety of natural features.

A special inventory of scenic viewpoints meeting the aforementioned criteria was conducted. Using the best available topographic maps, areas with a relief greater than 30 feet and a slope of 12 percent or greater were identified. Those areas of steep slope so identified with a ridge of at least 200 feet long and a view within approximately one-half mile of the ridge of at least three

features, including surface water, wetlands, woodlands, agricultural lands, or other significant geological features, were identified as scenic viewpoints. In the Slinger area, 32 such scenic areas or viewpoints were identified using this methodology. The locations of the scenic viewpoints are shown on the *Trails, Scenic Viewpoints and Park and Open Space Sites Map*.

For **additional information** about specific soil characteristics and limitations, refer to the *Washington County Soil Survey, 1965*.

TRAILS, SCENIC VIEW POINTS AND PARK & OPEN SPACE SITES MAP



Source: Washington County Land Use and Park Department, Village of Slinger, and SEWRPC.

Soil Limitation for Development Map insert here

SOILS

Soil properties exert a strong influence on the manner in which land is used, since soils affect the costs and feasibility of building site development and the provision and performance of both on-site sewage treatment and centralized sanitary sewer facilities. Soils are an irreplaceable resource, and mounting pressures on the land are constantly making this resource more and more valuable. A need exists, therefore, in any planning effort, to examine not only how land and soils are presently used, but also how they can best be used and managed for future use. This requires a detailed soil survey, which maps the geographic locations of various types of soils; identifies their physical, chemical and biological properties; and interprets these properties for land use and public facilities planning. The resulting comprehensive knowledge of the character and suitability of the soils is extremely valuable in every phase of the planning process.

For **additional information** about specific soil characteristics and limitations, refer to the *Washington County Soil Survey, 1965*.

The information on soils presented herein was a particularly important consideration in the preparation of the development plan for the Slinger area, since it was essential to the proper analysis of existing land use patterns; to alternative plan design and evaluation; and to plan selection. The soil assessments were used in conjunction with other data in the design of desirable spatial patterns for various residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational land uses and in the evaluation of alternative locations for various kinds of public works.

The soil map and analysis in the following section is based on the Soil Survey for Washington County, originally published in June 1971 by the USDA – Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service). It is important to note that the soil maps are based on in-field soil investigations conducted by Soil Scientists during the period 1963-1965 and that all maps were cartographically updated by NRCS in 2003 to meet current mapping standards. The soil features described below were derived from the December, 2006 version of the soil database maintained by NRCS through the Soil Data Mart web site (soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov).

SOIL LIMITATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The map titled “Soil Limitations for Development” shows the primary soil features that may present limitations for land development in the Slinger planning area, including steep slopes and shallow depth to the groundwater table. The map shows a compilation of all soils mapped within a slope range greater than 12%. As noted earlier, slopes this steep may increase grading and construction costs and present higher risks for soil erosion during land development activities. Woodlands are often associated with these steep slopes as well, as shown earlier. Development on steep slopes should be limited, and when it does occur, must be carefully planned to minimize the environmental impacts. The Soil Limitations Map shows that there is a concentration of steep slopes in the Kettle Moraine topography, which runs in a southwest to northeast direction through the center of the Slinger planning area.

The “water table” marks the upper boundary of the zone of saturation from groundwater. If the water table is near the ground surface, it presents risks of wetness problems for dwellings with basements as well as groundwater contamination from on-site septic systems. In the Slinger area, the water table in many soils naturally fluctuates up to several feet vertically throughout the year reflecting seasonal climate conditions. This usually means the water table is highest in the spring and lowest during late summer. When soils are exposed to reoccurring saturated and unsaturated

conditions over a long period, soil gleying or mottling will often occur, marking the upper reaches of the zone of saturation with unique coloring in the soils profile. Soil mottling, color structure and other factors are used by Soil Scientists to estimate the depth to seasonal high water table, which becomes one of many features used to classify soils into common units during the soil mapping process.

The Soils Limitations Map groups all soil map units in the Slinger planning area into two categories of seasonal high water table. Hydric soils generally have seasonal depth to water table of 1 foot or less and are capable of supporting wetland vegetation. A comparison to the Natural Features Map on page 7-5 shows that many of these soils are currently mapped as wetlands, and as such, land use may be restricted by various environmental regulations. Development should avoid all hydric soils due to the severe risks to buildings, roads and other infrastructure. Poorly drained soils have seasonal depth to water table of less than 4 feet but greater than 1 foot. These soils are often located in transitional areas between hydric and well drained upland soils. The risks of wetness for dwellings with basements are still very significant on these soils. To improve soil productivity for farming, subsurface drainage systems have historically been installed in both the hydric and poorly drained soil categories. These systems artificially lower the water table, allowing deeper root growth for crops and easier access for farming equipment.

It should be noted that in Washington County, saturated soils are often encountered in other soil map units not shown on the Soils Limitations Map, which may be caused by underlying soil, parent material or other conditions. For example, if a less pervious layer of glacial till is present below the immediate soil profile, it can create a perched water table condition above it. Even though this may not be reflected in the soil mapping unit, the saturated soil conditions are no less serious of a limitation for development than those areas shown on the Soil Limitations Map. This condition can only be confirmed through more detailed on-site soil investigations prior to development.

AIR QUALITY

The Village of Slinger, being relatively small in comparison to the City of Milwaukee, and also situated in a relatively rural environment, has not experienced the particulate matter and carbon monoxide air quality problems associated with the larger more highly industrialized areas of Southeastern Wisconsin. Six of the seven counties comprising the Southeastern Wisconsin region, including Washington County, are classified as severe ozone non-attainment areas. The following information is from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

*“A few common air pollutants are found all over the United States. These pollutants can injure health, harm the environment and cause property damage. EPA calls these pollutants **criteria air pollutants** because the agency has regulated them by first developing health-based **criteria** (science-based guidelines) as the basis for setting permissible levels. One set of limits (**primary standard**) protects health; another set of limits (**secondary standard**) is intended to prevent environmental and property damage. A geographic area that meets or does better than the primary standard is called an **attainment area**; areas that don't meet the primary standard are called **nonattainment areas**.”*

It is believed that the problems concerning ozone within Southeastern Wisconsin in large part originate from the large urban concentration to the south and southeast of the region. The air

quality of the region is also adversely affected by flow of polluted air from the northeastern part of the United States.

Based on information available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, significant areas of Washington County have air quality advisories in place for unhealthy or sensitive groups. The nearest air quality monitoring station is located in Milwaukee. More information on air quality is available at: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/air/.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Environmental corridors encompass those areas in southeastern Wisconsin in which concentrations of recreational, aesthetic, ecological, and cultural resources occur, and which, therefore, should be preserved and protected in essentially natural, open uses. Preservation of the natural resource base-related elements, especially where these elements are concentrated in identifiable geographic areas, is essential to the maintenance of the overall environmental quality of an area, to the continued provision of certain amenities that provide a high quality of life for resident population, and to the avoidance of excessive costs associated with the development and operation and maintenance of urban land uses in the area.

WHAT ARE ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS?

As defined by the SEWRPC, environmental corridors are linear areas that contain concentrations of high-value elements of the natural resource base.

Seven elements of the natural resource base are considered by the SEWRPC to be essential to the maintenance of the ecological balance and overall quality of life in an area. These elements include:

- 1) Lakes, rivers, streams, and associated shorelands and floodlands;
- 2) Wetlands;
- 3) Areas covered by wet, poorly drained, and organic soils;
- 4) Woodlands;
- 5) Wildlife habitat areas;
- 6) Rugged terrain and high relief topography having slopes exceeding 12 percent; and
- 7) Prairies.

Six of these seven elements as they occur in the study area have been described earlier in this chapter. There are no significant prairies in Slinger or the surrounding vicinity.

There are certain other elements that, although not a part of the natural resource base per se, are closely related to, or centered on, that base. These elements include:

- 1) Existing parks and outdoor recreation sites;
- 2) Potential park, outdoor recreation, and related open space sites;
- 3) Historic and archeological sites;
- 4) Scenic viewpoints; and
- 5) Scientific and natural areas.

The primary and secondary environmental corridors, as well as the other environmentally significant isolated natural areas in Slinger and the surrounding vicinity, are shown on the map on page 7-17.

- **Primary Environmental Corridors.** In 1985, about 2,502 acres, or 26 percent of the area, were within the primary environmental corridors shown on *Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Areas Map*. The primary environmental corridors in the Slinger study area are generally located along the perennial and intermittent streams. These corridors contain the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas within the study area and are, in effect, a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource and recreational value. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from intrusion by incompatible rural and urban uses and possible attendant degradation or destruction should be one of the principal objectives of a local development plan. Preservation of these primary corridors in an essentially open, natural state, including park and open space, limited agricultural, and country estate residential uses, will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in the area, protect its natural beauty, and provide valuable recreational opportunities. Such preservation will also avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems, such as flood damage, poor drainage, wet basements, failing pavements and other structures, excessive infiltration of clear waters into sanitary sewers, and water pollution.
- **Secondary Environmental Corridors.** As shown on the *Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Areas Map* about 1 percent of the area is within secondary environmental corridors. The secondary environmental corridors in the Slinger area are also generally located along perennial and intermittent streams or serve as links between segments of primary environmental corridors. These secondary environmental corridors often contain remnant resources from former primary environmental corridors, which have been developed for intensive agricultural purposes, or urban land uses. These environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage, maintain pockets of natural resource features, and provide for the movement of wildlife, and for the movement and dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. Such corridors should be preserved in essentially open, natural uses as urban development proceeds within the study area, particularly when the opportunity is presented to incorporate such corridors into urban storm water detention areas, associated drainageways, and neighborhood parks and open spaces.
- **Isolated Natural Features.** In addition to the primary and secondary environmental corridors, other small concentrations of natural resource base elements exist within the study area. These elements are isolated from the environmental corridors by urban development or agricultural uses and, although separated from the environmental corridor network, may have important residual natural values. Isolated natural features may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and nature study areas, and lend aesthetic character and natural diversity to an area. Important isolated natural features within the Slinger area include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. These isolated natural features should also be protected and preserved in a natural state whenever possible. Such isolated natural areas five acres or greater in size are also shown on the *Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Areas Map* and included about 424 acres, or 4 percent of the area in 1985.

Village of Slinger Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

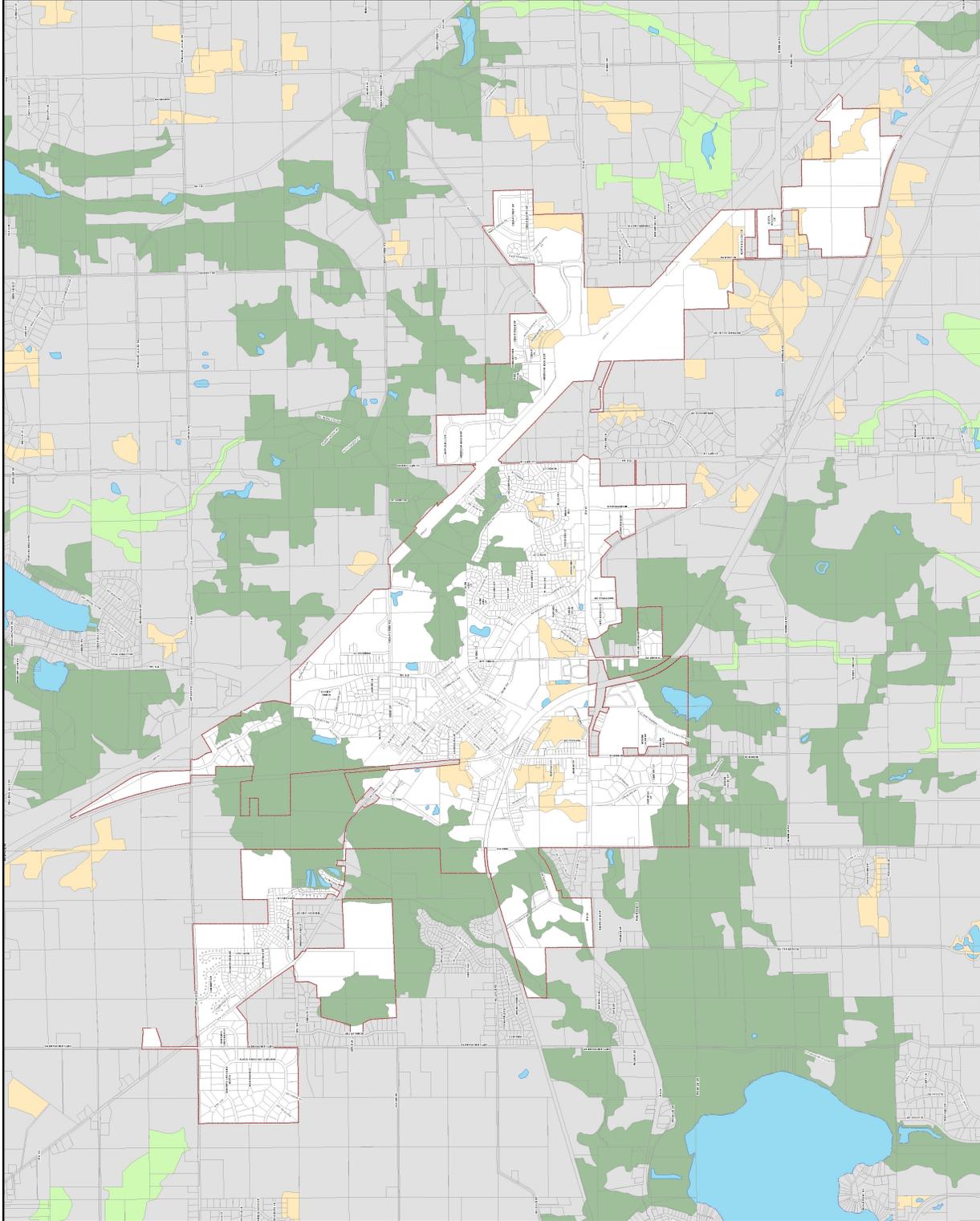
Legend

- Primary Environmental Corridor
- Secondary Environmental Corridor
- Isolated Natural Resource Area
- Surface Water



Prepared: 6/01/06
SOURCE: SEWPPC is the source for 2003
Environmental Corridor and Isolated Natural
Resource Areas.

June 1, 2006 R:\Slinger\GIS\Projects\Masterplan\Map06\Environmental Corridors and IRRA.mxd



The Crispell/Snyder, Inc. GIS map contains information developed for and intended for Walworth County. This data is supplied "as is" without warranty or guarantee. Other agencies or contractors should make their own inquiry regarding the accuracy or reliability of this information.

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS⁴

Natural areas are tracts of land or water minimally modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. In the Village of Slinger and surrounding vicinity, there are three natural areas of local significance:

1. STH 60 Swamp (T10N/R18E Sections 14 & 23 of the Town of Hartford) - Lowland hardwood swamp containing northern elements dominated by yellow birch and black ash.
2. Pike Lake Sedge Meadow (T10N/R18E Section 23 of the Town of Hartford) - Southern sedge meadow and shallow marsh at north end of Pike Lake.
3. Pike Lake Woods (T10N/R18E Section 24 of the Town of Hartford) - Dry-mesic woods with irregular kettle moraine topography including prominent wooded kame.

Critical species habitats are those areas, outside of natural areas, where the chief value lies in their ability to support rare, threatened, or endangered species. Such areas constitute “critical” habitat that is important to ensure survival of a particular species or group of species of concern. Mud Lake, a 23-acre undeveloped seepage lake encompassed by the Mud Lake Meadow is the only critical habitat area within the Village of Slinger planning area.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources, like natural resources, are valuable assets, which should be preserved. At this time, recognized historic and cultural resources in the Village are somewhat limited. Much of the information that is available is dated. Accordingly, an objective has been added to this chapter to complete a historical survey.

Historic sites are classified into three general categories: structures, archaeological features, and other cultural features. In general, historic structures include architecturally or historically significant homes, churches, government buildings, mills, schools, and museums. Archaeological sites consist of areas occupied or utilized by humans in a way and for such a length of time as to be marked by certain features, such as burial or effigy mounds, or to contain artifacts. Such sites within Southeastern Wisconsin are usually, but not always, associated with early American Indian settlements. Other cultural features include sites of early European settlements or are closely related to such settlements, and include the location, for example, of old plank roads, cemeteries, and settlement sites.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

Historic preservation planning, as it relates to local units of government such as the Village of Slinger, may be defined as an effort to ensure that the community’s historic resources are protected and enhanced over time. Preservation planning recognizes that historic places are valuable resources whose damage or loss would be detrimental to the community. The elements necessary for effective historic preservation planning are:

⁴ Information in this section is documented further within the Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County, Community Assistance Planning Report No. 136 developed by SEWRPC.

- 1) A thorough survey of historic resources,
- 2) Community support for historic preservation, and
- 3) Integration of the historic preservation planning into the comprehensive community planning process.

The principal means for implementing historic preservation planning include:

- 1) A local landmarks or historic preservation commission created by municipal ordinance,
- 2) Proper districts and district regulations for protecting historic sites and structures in the zoning ordinance, and
- 3) A demolition control ordinance. These principal means may be supplemented by the use of easements and certain taxation policies.

The importance of historic preservation planning is based on the assumption that the historic resources of a community are valuable and should be carefully considered in planning for both community development and community redevelopment. Historic preservation can help to maintain the unique identity of a community, especially within a community's central business district, in a time when many factors are tending to create a national homogeneity in the environment. Other benefits of historic preservation include: promotion of tourism, increased real estate values and municipal tax revenues, the arrest of decay in declining areas, the creation of community pride, and the conservation of cultural resources. Despite these potential benefits, forces such as economics, attitudes, and existing laws can sometimes work against historic preservation. Through proper planning, however, the impediments to historic preservation can be reduced.

At this time, the Village of Slinger does not have a formal Historical Society. Members of the Advancement Association have prepared materials documenting Slinger's history and been a resource on historical matters. If needed in the future the Village will consider seeking the assistance of a formal historical society or organization.

EXISTING HISTORIC PRESERVATION INVENTORIES

The Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) has several listings in the Village of Slinger. Properties listed in the AHI are part of the State of Wisconsin official historic catalogue. The AHI is comprised of written text (and some photographs) of each property, which documents the property's architecture and history. Most of the properties became part of the AHI as a result of systematic architectural and historical surveys. Inclusion in the AHI conveys no special status or advantage; it is merely a record of the property. The AHI inventory is housed at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison and is maintained by the Society's Division of Historic Preservation. For a complete list of catalogued historic sites in the Village of Slinger, visit the AHI on the Internet at www.shsw.wisc.edu/ahi/.

Based on AHI records, properties in the Village that may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic places include:

- The Slinger House – a fieldstone barn located at 10 W. Washington Street.
- 4 downtown commercial buildings
- E. Penoske Residence – 315 S. Kettle Moraine Drive
- Prairie School House – 304 S. Kettle Moraine Drive
- Slinger Railroad Depot – 414 S. Kettle Moraine Drive

In 1997, WisDOT District 2 completed a survey of cultural resources for STH 144 between STH 60 and USH 41. This project was completed in accordance with National Historic Preservation

Act requirements for obtaining federal funding for highway improvement projects. What is interesting about the report, is that while eight properties were profiled in detail, each of the properties had been so altered (i.e. re-sided, additions added, porches added, etc.) that none of the properties documented were recommended for inclusion in the national or state historic records database.

The map on the next page outlines a potential historic district and identifies several potential historic places.

SLINGER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Slinger Historic Preservation Committee was created after development of the 1995 *Village of Slinger Land Use and Street System Plan*. The individual from SEWRPC overseeing the 1995 Village planning process suggested that Slinger had some interesting historic buildings and should consider establishing a historic preservation district.

Initially, the Slinger Historic Preservation Committee set out to identify historic properties within the Village. It is their goal to establish a historic district and perhaps even a historic building code administered by the Historic Preservation Committee.

The Historic Preservation Committee was able to get the UW-Madison Architecture Department to have a graduate student complete an inventory of historic properties. Unfortunately, the report duplicates much of the AHI information and is therefore, somewhat disappointing. The Historic Preservation Committee would like a much more encompassing and complete report for its use.

MUSEUMS

Museums protect valuable historic resources for community enjoyment. While there are no museums located in Slinger, residents have access to a variety of museums available nearby in Hartford, West Bend and other nearby communities, including premier facilities in Milwaukee.

HISTORIC RESOURCES & POTENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT MAP



LEGEND

— POTENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

● 3 POTENTIAL HISTORIC PLACE AND IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

POTENTIAL HISTORIC PLACES

- 1 MILWAUKEE ROAD/SOO LINE DEPOT
- 2 407 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — RESIDENCE
- 3 405 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — RESIDENCE
- 4 400 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — KIPPENHAN POST OFFICE/BAR/HOTEL
- 5 314 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — RESIDENCE
- 6 308 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — DR. J. E. REICHERT RESIDENCE
- 7 304 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — VETERINARY CLINIC/RESIDENCE
- 8 319 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — TELEPHONE OFFICE/RESIDENCE
- 9 315 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — E. PENOSKE RESIDENCE
- 10 309 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — ODD FELLOWS HALL
- 11 305 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — RESIDENCE

- 12 303 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — FUNERAL HOME/DAIRY/RESIDENCE
- 13 308 OAK ST. — SCHAEFER ORGAN FACTORY
- 14 207 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — PRINTING SHOP/RESIDENCE
- 15 212 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — BARBER SHOP/RESIDENCE
- 16 208 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — RESIDENCE
- 17 206 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — RESIDENCE
- 18 202 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
- 19 105 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — BANK/BUTCHER SHOP/OFFICE/RESIDENCE
- 20 101 KETTLE MORaine DR. S. — FUNERAL HOME/HARDWARE STORE/BANK/OFFICES
- 21 100 W. WASHINGTON ST. — HOTEL/TELEPHONE OFFICE/RESTAURANT
- 22 ROTH'S HOTEL BARN
- 23 111 KETTLE MORaine DR. N. — BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 24 ROSENHEIMER FAMILY CEMETERY
- 25 200 W. WASHINGTON ST. — LEHMAN ROSENHEIMER GENERAL STORE
- 26 208 E. WASHINGTON ST. — ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Source: Washington County Historical Society, Village of Slinger, and SEWRPC.

Current Policies and Trends

SHORELAND/WETLAND ZONING

The Washington County Shoreland Wetland Zoning Ordinance regulates “shoreland” areas, defined as those lands lying within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of natural lakes, ponds, or flowages, or 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable rivers or streams, or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater. Lakes, ponds, flowages, rivers and stream are presumed navigable if they are listed in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publication, *Surface Water Resources of Washington County*, or are shown on the United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

The Washington County regulations apply to areas in surrounding townships, as well as areas in the Village of Slinger annexed after May 7, 1982. Section 59.971(7) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires county shoreland regulations to remain in effect in areas annexed after that date unless the city or village has adopted shoreland regulations that are at least as restrictive as the county’s regulations. County regulations are almost always more restrictive than city or village regulations, because state regulations require the adoption of shoreland zoning ordinances specify more restrictive standards for county ordinances than for city and village ordinances. Some of the standards that must be included in county shoreland ordinances but are not required in city and village ordinances are larger minimum lot sizes, 75-foot minimum setback requirements from the ordinary high-water mark of rivers, streams, and lakes; limitations on the removal of shore cover within 35 feet of the ordinary high-water marks; and restrictions on filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching, and excavating in shoreland areas.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN/EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL ZONING

The Washington County farmland preservation plan identifies farmland preservation areas within the unincorporated areas of the County. The farmland preservation areas identified under that plan are further categorized as “primary” farmland and “secondary” farmland. Primary farmlands, as defined under the County plan, with minor exceptions, meet the criteria for prime agricultural land established by the SEWRPC and, accordingly, all primary farmlands identified under the County plan are included in the configuration of prime agricultural land shown on *Prime Agricultural Lands Map* at the beginning of this chapter. Some areas identified under the County plan as secondary farmland; however, include farmland, which does not meet the SEWRCP criteria for prime agricultural land. Only those secondary farmlands, which meet the SEWRPC criteria, have been included in the configuration of prime agricultural land identified on the map at the beginning of this chapter.

Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Issues and Concerns

REGIONAL AWARENESS

The Village of Slinger supports compact, urban development within its boundaries to accommodate area population growth without sacrificing the rural character and prime farmland in surrounding towns. The Village strongly supports that agricultural land be continued in agricultural production.

This sense of regional awareness, with respect to Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources, also extends to an understanding that Slinger residents enjoy natural and cultural resources available in the region, including: Holy Hill, the Kettle Moraine, Pike Lake State Park, and the many cultural amenities available in Milwaukee. Accordingly, the Village values its central location with respect to abundant nearby Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources.

DESIRE TO INCREASE LOCAL CULTURAL OFFERINGS

During the planning process, participating residents expressed an interest in seeing increased local cultural opportunities, including: a local movie theater, a community festival, and a teen/community center. The Village supports private investments in these pursuits, particularly as the population grows to increase the need and use of such facilities.

The Village also encourages the school district to consider opportunities to open its facilities for community theater use.

COMMITMENT TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Slinger is a great community with some fine historic architecture and historic sites. Slinger has some properties that are likely eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Unfortunately, without a preservation code these buildings are being lost and/or altered (or neglected) in a way that is detrimental to their historic fabric. In addition, economic trends that have led to the trend of moving commercial interests out to Hwy 60 have hurt the historic downtown business district. Opportunities exist through programs like the Main Street Program and the establishment of a future TIF district downtown to promote historic preservation and economic development.

WHAT IS THE MAIN STREET PROGRAM?

The Wisconsin Main Street Program was established in 1987 to encourage and support the revitalization of downtowns in Wisconsin. Each year, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce selects communities to join the program. These communities receive technical support and training needed to restore their Main Streets to centers of community activity and commerce. The program is based on the 1980 National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Street Center and its four-point approach:

- Organization
- Design
- Economic Restructuring
- Promotion.

For more information visit,
www.commerce.state.wi.us/CD/CD-bdd-overview.html

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

There are many methods to protect open space. For example, development areas can be restricted through zoning setbacks and buffer requirements. Another option available to landowners seeking to protect natural areas is through the activities of land trusts. Land trusts provide landowners with advice on protection strategies that best meet the landowner's conservation and

financial needs. Land trusts accept lands donated by landowners for conservation purposes. Land trusts can also work with landowners to establish conservation easements.

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that limits present and future development of a parcel. The landowner retains ownership of the land (within the terms of the easement – i.e. only for farmland or natural space, not for development) and the land trust takes the responsibility for protecting the land’s conservation values. Donated conservation easements that meet federal tax code requirements can provide significant tax advantages to landowners because their land will be taxed as undevelopable land, which is a much lower rate than developable land.

Yet another method to natural areas and farmland, while minimizing conflicts with residential development, is conservation or cluster subdivisions. *Conservation subdivision designs encourage the preservation and protection of open space, natural areas and farmland resources.* In a conservation subdivision, homes are “clustered” together on smaller lots so that a greater proportion of the land is protected from development.

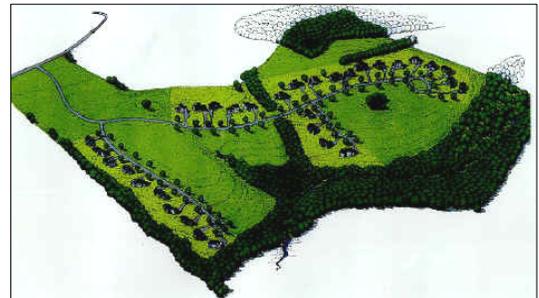
- Typically, a conservation subdivision will require 30% - 50% of a site be protected from further development.
- Protection and maintenance of the conserved area can be accomplished through a conservation easement with an appropriate conservation organization, land trust, homeowners association or government body, or through deed covenants.
- The areas to be conserved must be protected indefinitely.
- The land designated for protection should either be left as natural habitat, open space, or farmland.
- In conservation subdivisions, the development of walking and bicycle trails is encouraged, particularly to provide limited access to protected natural areas.

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL AREAS

It is important to note that, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the deterioration or final destruction of any one element of the total natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The drainage and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas, and the natural filtration action and flood water storage functions which contribute to maintaining high levels of water quality and stable stream flows and lake stages in a watershed. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to the deterioration of the quality of the groundwater which serves as a source of domestic,

How is a Conservation/Cluster Subdivision Created?

- 1. Develop a Yield Plan.** This plan essentially shows how many homes could be developed if a traditional subdivision layout were used.
- 2. Identify Primary And Secondary Conservation Areas.** Primary conservation areas include: poor soils, steep slope, wetlands, waterways and floodplains that are not conducive to development. Secondary conservation areas include other areas of local importance targeted for protection (i.e. farmland, woodlands, scenic views, etc.).
- 3. Locate the Home Sites.**
- 4. Include Roads, Sidewalks and Trails.**
- 5. Draw the Lot Lines.** This is usually the first step in a traditional approach.



municipal, and industrial water supply and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid storm water runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, as well as destruction of wildlife habitat.

Although the effects of any one of these environmental changes may not in and of itself be overwhelming, the combined effects will eventually create serious environmental and developmental problems. These problems include flooding, water pollution, deterioration and destruction of wildlife habitat, loss of groundwater recharge, and destruction of the uniqueness natural beauty of the area. The need to maintain the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors and environmentally significant lands thus becomes apparent. The adopted regional land use plan accordingly recommends that the remaining primary environmental corridors be maintained in essentially natural, open uses, which may, in some cases, include limited agricultural and low-density residential uses.

Coordination with Other Comprehensive Plan Elements

The development of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element required coordination with all of the required plan elements. Below is a description of the critical issues addressed with respect to the Transportation, Land Use and Housing Elements. These elements are profiled because their coordination with the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element is critical to the success of the plan.

TRANSPORTATION

Development and subsequent transportation improvements may impact the natural resources (i.e. wetlands) and wildlife habitat areas in the Village. To minimize this impact it will be important for the Village to monitor this situation and utilize easements and buffers to protect natural resources and wildlife habitats. Also, by promoting compact development patterns, the Village can provide opportunities for residents to walk, bike and use other alternative transit options to get to their destinations. This may help to offset the impact of dispersed development patterns that force people to make more automobile trips each day. Increased vehicle trips generate pollutant emissions, greenhouse gas emissions and noise that negatively impact the environment.

LAND USE

When the *Recommended Land Use Plan for 2025* was developed, special consideration was given to natural resource protection and expansion of urban development to protect surrounding rural, farming areas from development pressure. Also, when developing the *Recommended Land Use Plan for 2025*, special consideration was given to soil characteristics as they relate to building site limitations.

HOUSING

Housing, if not carefully located and planned for, can have a severe impact on natural resources and farming operations. Rural housing development can fragment farming operations and wildlife habitat areas. If not carefully planned, additional traffic, people, and services associated with housing development can quickly destroy rural character. The Village of Slinger would like to encourage development in the Village in order to concentrate development where services are

readily available. Directing development to the Village will help to protect area natural resources and farmlands. Development around the Village should be encouraged in conservation subdivisions, and extremely low density patterns to protect natural resources and farmland. This strategy for housing development is reflected in the *Recommended Land Use Plan for 2025*.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

It is the vision of the Village of Slinger that the community will retain its character by continuing to enjoy a mix of scenic, open, natural, undeveloped areas through 2025 and beyond. Natural resources will be protected and serve as an environmental, recreational, and economic asset to the Village. Residential and commercial development will be in harmony with the Village's natural environment. The Village will also work, in accordance with the Intergovernmental Cooperation Element of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law, with neighboring communities, the school district, Washington County, SEWRPC and the State of Wisconsin to ensure that natural resources are adequately protected for future generations.

The Village of Slinger believes natural resources are important and should be protected because they:

- Support a wide variety of desirable and sometimes unique plant and animal life;
- Assist in the stabilization of lake levels and stream flows;
- Trap and store plant nutrients in runoff, thus reducing the rate of enrichment of surface waters and obnoxious weed and algae growth;
- Contribute to the oxygen and water supply;
- Reduce stormwater runoff by providing area for floodwater impoundment and storage;
- Wetlands and floodplains trap of soil particles suspended in runoff and thus reduce stream sedimentation; and
- Provide the resource base for forest product industries
- Provide the population with opportunities for certain scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.
- Provide a desirable aesthetic setting for certain types of land use development.

In accordance with these ideas goals and objectives are provided in Chapter 11 and policies are presented in this section.

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES POLICIES

The Village of Slinger encourages development within its corporate limits, connected to Village sanitary and water systems, to promote efficient urban development patterns that maximize available services. Accordingly, to protect farmland and natural areas, the Village will discourage land divisions or subdivision development outside of the Village limits in certain areas designated on the Village's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

It is the policy of the Village to preserve natural resources, water resources, and wildlife habitat areas to maintain the Village's character and quality of living.

It is the policy of the Village of Slinger to discourage habitat fragmentation by maintaining environmental corridors.

It is the policy of the Village to preserve the most significant aspects of the natural resource base, that is, primary environmental corridors and surrounding agricultural lands, which contribute to the maintenance of the ecological balance, natural beauty, agricultural production and economic well being of the Village and environs.

It is the policy of the Village of Slinger to carefully consider soil types and limitations when approving development projects to avoid costly environmental and developmental problems and aid in the establishment of better settlement patterns. Accordingly:

- Sewered urban developments should not be located in areas covered by soils identified as having severe limitations for such development. When development is proposed on soils exhibiting severe limitations, careful attention must be given in the design to properly overcome these limitations.
- The Village will communicate and coordinate with neighboring communities, particularly when enforcing extra-territorial zoning, to prevent unsewered suburban and rural residential developments in areas covered by soils identified as being unsuitable for such developments.
- When development is proposed on soils exhibiting unsuitable conditions, careful attention be given in the design to properly overcome these limitations.
- Slinger uses the classifications by the Soil Conservation Service or USDA to determine the suitability of soils for development.

It is the policy of the Village to protect Inland lakes and streams and their associated shorelands and floodlands. Therefore:

- Floodlands should not be allocated to any urban development that would cause or be subject to flood damage;
- The floodwater storage capacity of natural floodlands should not be reduced by urban or rural development;
- The flow capacity of perennial stream channels and associated floodlands should not be reduced below existing conditions; and
- Adequate stormwater drainage facilities should be provided for all urban development.

It is the policy of the Village to protect its wetlands. Therefore,

- Wetland areas adjacent to streams or lakes, wetlands within areas having special wildlife and other natural values, and wetlands having an area of five acres or more should not be allocated to any urban development except limited recreation and should not be drained or filled but can be used for density allocation; and
- To the extent practicable, areas immediately adjacent to and surrounding wetlands should be developed to minimize effects on wetlands.

It is the policy of the Village to protect primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural areas. Therefore,

- All remaining undeveloped lands within designated primary environmental corridors should be preserved in essentially natural, open uses, or developed as five acre minimum residential lots, low density development, or low impact development; and
- To the extent practical, undeveloped lands identified as secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural areas should be considered for preservation, utilized as drainage ways, floodwater detention areas, and parks.

It is the policy of the Village of Slinger to provide sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for extensive trail-oriented recreational activities. Therefore,

- Resource-oriented recreation corridors should maximize use of environmental corridors for extensive trail-oriented recreation activities; outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites; and existing recreational trail facilities.
- The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas.