

TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY



MASTER PLAN

Adopted by:

The Windsor Town Board & The Token Creek Conservancy Committee

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2012 Windsor Town Board

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This manual was first envisioned by the Token Creek Conservancy Committee (TCCC) many years ago..... With limited funding and resources, projects were completed with help from dedicated groups and volunteers. Without their help, the Conservancy might not exist. With that in mind, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals and groups for their help with the development of the Master Plan.

Alan Harvey merits special mention for his contributions to this plan. Alan played a crucial role in the development of the Conservancy by coordinating the land acquisitions (creating what we define as the Token Creek Conservancy) and the restoration efforts completed to date (working with the Army Corp of Engineers and Wis.DNR). Alan crafted the ordinance to create the Token Creek Conservancy Committee and was careful in selecting members that would make the management of the Conservancy successful by including members representing the Windsor Parks Commission, DeForest Area School District and Token Creek Watershed. Alan's history of the Town and involvement with Town politics provided excellent material and perspective for this Master Plan. This plan compiles the substance of his research. In addition, he wrote on the History and Natural Resources of the Token Creek Conservancy which are included in the Appendix of this document. (Alan's research can be obtained upon request from the Town of Windsor at (608) 846-3854).

Amy Anderson Schweppe compiled the research and organized the material into a user friendly format that is presented with this Master Plan. She spent countless personal hours working on the plan, leading committee discussion on the plan and producing a product that represents the vision of the Token Creek Conservancy Committee. Her contributions also include organizing the implementation plan so that the projects contained within this Master Plan can be achieved in the respective timeline. Her dedication to this project and the Token Creek Conservancy Committee deserves admirable mention.

Jean Schneider researched the land suitability and planned the trails for this Master Plan. Her work included many hours working with our consultant to draft the trail segments that are presented with this work. She helped develop the initial implementation plan that the committee has adopted herein. Her interest in permaculture and land conservation plays a significant role in her involvement with the Token Creek Conservancy Committee.

Judith Hutchinson, a founding member of the TCCC and the Token Creek Watershed Association, has dedicated countless hours working and coordinating volunteer efforts at the Conservancy creating the trail system we currently enjoy. Judith's unique knowledge of the Conservancy and history of the Token Creek area was critical in the writing of this Master Plan.

Token Creek Watershed Association has played an important role in many of the projects at the Token Creek Conservancy. They helped to raise money for the purchase of the property,

funded the seeding of the prairie and even assisted in financing this Master Plan. Through this partnership, the Token Creek Watershed is being protected and improved by a group of volunteers with common interests and goals.

Wis. DNR has provided guidance and support for the Token Creek Conservancy, most notably by continuing the stream restoration work started by the Army Corp. of Engineers. The Wis. DNR also works collaboratively with the Town to maintain the trout ponds. New opportunities for the ponds will include Urban Fishery designation and a renewed agreement for the management of this area.

INTRODUCTION

From humble beginnings, the Token Creek Conservancy Committee (TCCC) managed to accomplish a great deal with limited resources. As the aspirations of the TCCC grew, it was realized that a more formal plan was necessary. The Token Creek Conservancy needed a plan that would allow the public to understand the vision and goals that the TCCC hoped to achieve. Such a plan would be used to guide the decision making process for the committee as well as forecast budget needs and project goals for the Conservancy and provide a level of transparency to the public.

This Master Plan is designed to guide the TCCC over approximately the next 5-10 years by identifying priority projects and implementation schedules that also factor in funding resources. It is meant to be a manual for current and future TCCC members to follow when assigning annual projects and assist with budget preparations. The Master Plan is divided into Management Area sections for easy reference. In addition, the TCCC will need to manage an implementation plan to help forecast project planning for the next 5-10 years.

An Implementation Plan is presented with this Master Plan but should be considered as a flexible guide to help manage the financial needs of the Conservancy over time. An Implementation Plan is intended to help the TCCC budget resources over the time span of this Master Plan. Every year the TCCC shall discuss the budget for the following year and realign priorities within the budget without significantly changing the goals of this Master Plan.

The Token Creek Conservancy Mission Statement

- To conserve, preserve, and restore the lands, the natural and diverse habitats and the wildlife of the Token Creek Conservancy.
- To provide low impact recreational and environmental uses.
- To manage the site to provide respite, enjoyment and educational activities for our community.
- To protect environmentally sensitive resources in the Token Creek Conservancy and Watershed.
- To advocate the expansion of the Token Creek Conservancy in environmentally sensitive areas, and to support conservation easements to protect environmentally sensitive resources outside of the Conservancy area.

GENERAL CONSERVANCY MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

This section covers the broadly defined goals and objectives that the TCCC considers to be the core philosophy for the Management of the Token Creek Conservancy. These general guidelines cover all areas of the Conservancy and reflect the mission and values adopted by the TCCC. These goals and objectives are further expanded upon in each Management Area component of the Master Plan and ultimately provide a framework for implementing policies and management practices for the Conservancy.

Objective: Increase Public Awareness of the Conservancy

- Develop a basic marketing and public relations strategy to promote the Conservancy. Efforts should be made to distinguish the Conservancy as a destination for multi-seasonal low impact recreational opportunities like hiking and snowshoeing.
- Increase awareness of the location of the Conservancy. Since there are multiple entrances into the Conservancy, a unified cohesive system of signs should be created to provide continuity and recognition of the interconnecting sections as part of the larger Token Creek Conservancy System. For example; the header of the sign should always read “Token Creek Conservancy”, with the individual entrance location secondary. In addition to standardized signs, a logo or graphic would help unify the branding of the Conservancy and could be used in multiple formats like letterhead, website graphics, and promotional products.
- Create a unique website, blog page, twitter page, facebook page or other social media to help circulate information and promote events at the Conservancy.
- Develop public and cultural events to showcase the Conservancy like; naturalist lead walks, concerts in the Conservancy and outdoor recreational teaching lessons (fly fishing, snowshoeing, birding, geocaching, etc.)
- Establish a “Friends of the Conservancy” volunteer group to help with specific management needs and/or event planning for the property.
- Create educational opportunities and learning stations throughout the Conservancy that will enhance the wildlife experience of visitors.
- Promote public participation through a network of volunteer activities. Seek out opportunities that bring skilled workers/ hobbyists/naturalists to create teaching workshops that can be promoted.

Objective: Promote Ecological and Sustainable Stewardship of Resources

- Strive to increase the biodiversity of the area by promoting the use of native plants, shrubs and trees wherever possible. Special consideration should be made to increase the species diversity and vigor of selected species to minimize the impact of disease to the Conservancy. Efforts should also be made to improve the variety of food sources and habitat needs for wildlife.
- Invasive and exotic species should be managed in an environmentally responsible manner. Chemical herbicide and pesticide use should be minimized.
- Water conditions should be monitored and managed in order to improve stream quality and enhance the watershed. The TCCC should continue to support the on-going stream restoration efforts by the Wis. DNR.
- Create passive low impact recreational opportunities throughout the Conservancy. Trails should be designed to minimize maintenance costs and harmful effects to the sensitive properties of the land. Horses, bicycles and motorized vehicles (except maintenance vehicles) must be prohibited.

Objective: Expand Conservancy Development

- Trail plans should be made to encourage trail development and use for multiple seasonal activities (such as hiking/cross country ski trails). Trail plans should also consider areas of interest with educational signs.
- Utilize professionals that specialize in identified management area concerns.
- Establish and strengthen collaborative efforts with the School District, DNR, Watershed and other environmental/civic groups.
- Link the trail system throughout all conservancy property where possible.

To achieve the General Management philosophy goals the TCCC shall establish plans for each Management Area that recommend opportunities for restoration, establish management expectations, and provide implementation plans to prioritize work efforts.

MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLANS

The Token Creek Conservancy Committee (TCCC) shall develop specific and professional management plans for each unique management area that address the long term restoration and management goals for the conservancy. These plans will provide the overall direction and prioritization of the Conservancy's future maintenance and planning requirements. These additional plans are intended to supplement the Master Plan and be included as the primary document for the management of each distinct Management Area.

Management and restoration plans shall be designed to:

- Identify invasive and exotic species and plan for their removal from the habitat.
- Increase biodiversity through the use of native species.
- Enhance food sources and habitat.
- Minimize chemical use.
- Develop possible restoration plan to transition to a native habitat (or similar based on viability of plan).
- Include a timeline, cost and priority for each goal.
- Address future management goals/needs.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Implementation Plans are meant to be fluid and will be revised according to budget constraints, funding opportunities, realized or unrealized priorities and findings from the Management and Restoration Plans that are to be completed in the future. The Implementation Plan presented with this document is based on the priorities identified by the Committee at the time this document was adopted by the Town.

Text in Red likely requires alternate funding

M is for Maintenance
I is for Improvements
T is for Trails

Area	Type	Task	Responsible Party	Year	Cost	Proposed Budget				
						2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Improvements										
B-I	I	Install new sign Token Creek Conservancy, Big Hill Environmental Center. Sign will likely need to be a double sided large sign to accommodate all the text.	TCCC/DeForest Schools	2013	\$2,500		\$2,500.00			
CH	I	Reuse old picnic tables for the Conservancy as they are replaced in other Windsor Parks	TCCC	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CH	I	Change entrance sign name to "Token Creek Conservancy, Elmer & Edna Culver Conservancy Entrance"	TCCC	2013	\$800		\$800.00			
CH	I	Plant berm with tree and shrub plantings along with grasses to hold the berm in place	TCCC/Volunteers	2013	\$500	\$500.00				
CH	I	Develop educational signage in prairie and forests	TCCC	2014	\$1,500		\$1,500.00			
CH	I	Construct shelter with new picnic tables	Contractor/Volunteers	2016 - 2018	\$25,000					\$25,000.00
CH	I	Plant higher density of trees at the hillside forest to replace harvested trees and to plan for this mainly ash tree forest to die within the next 5-10 years	TCCC/Volunteers	2012 - 2013	\$1,000	\$500.00				
DNR	I	Obtain Urban Fishery designation from DNR	TCCC/DNR	2013	\$250	\$250.00				
DNR	I	Install new educational signage around the ponds. Include signs with fishing limits. If Urban Fish Designation	TCCC/DNR	2013	\$750	\$750.00				
DNR	I	Install new entrance sign (Only if we get urban designation and if DNR agrees to Maintenance/stock of ponds)	TCCC/DNR	2013	\$1,500	\$1,500.00				
DNR	I	Install new fishing platform for handicap fishing access. May require matching funds	TCCC	2013	\$8,000	\$8,000.00				
DNR	I	Add two benches to overlook creek	Eagle Scouts	2013	\$0	\$0.00				
DNR	I	Update sign on Highway 19 with logo	Town of Windsor	2015	\$1,000			\$1,000.00		
DNR	I	Install new paved trail for handicap access	TCCC	2015 +	\$5,000			\$5,000.00		
DNR	I	Install new parking lot for handicap parking	TCCC	2016 +	\$30,000			\$0.00		
FO	I	Develop sustainable forest management plan (RFP for invasive Control)	TCCC/Consultant/DNR	2012	\$500	\$500.00				
OWS	I	Update sign to read "Token Creek Conservancy, Old Mill Site Entrance". A double sided sign should be considered and turned perpendicular to Portage Road. The existing sign may be modified as long as it is large enough to accommodate all the text.	TCCC	2013	\$1,500	\$1,500.00				
OWS	I	Construct shelter	TCCC/Contractor	2018	\$10,000			\$0.00		
OWS	I	Add benches at wetland viewing area near cemetery	Eagle Scout Project	2013	\$0	\$0.00				
OWS	I	Construct new bridge over old spillway area. Obtain necessary permits from Dane County and DNR. Construction is only allowed during certain months of the year on the stream.	Funding Assistance/TCCC	2013	\$10,000	\$10,000.00				
OWS	I	Coordinate rereading of the disturbed area near the stream from the DNR stream work.	DNR	2014	\$0	\$0.00				
OWS	I	Add educational signage along the trails and near the stream.	eagle Scout Project	2014	\$0	\$0.00				
OWS	I	Add a new kiosk at the parking area. Use volunteer labor or Town Staff to install.	TCCC/Volunteers	2014	\$1,500			\$1,500.00		
RT	I	Place plaque on hickory bench	TCCC	2012	\$30	\$30.00				
RT	I	Plant trees to replace those cut down.	TCCC/Volunteers	2012	\$150	\$150.00				

Area	Type	Task	Responsible Party	Year	Cost	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RT	I	Continue educational signage from The Old Mill Site Area Convert existing entrance sign to read "Token Creek Conservancy, Rain-tree Entrance". Move sign away from road so it is more easily viewed and not obstructed by the pampas grass.	TCCC/Volunteers	2013	\$600		\$600.00			
RT	I	Consider establishing short grass prairie	TCCC/Town of Windsor	2013	\$850		\$850.00			
RI	I	Add a sign west of Portage Road identifying lands as "Token Creek Conservancy"	TCCC	2015-	\$2,000				\$2,000.00	
WET	I		TCCC	2014	\$900			\$900.00		
Maintenance										
CH	M	Clear all trails from debris	TCCC/Town of Windsor	Spring/fall annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CH	M	Burn prairie - one half every year	Volunteers/Consultant	annually	\$500	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
CH	M	Gate Management - Culver Hill gate opened on weekends seasonally	Contractor	annually	\$600	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
CH	M	Re-seed care patches in prairie	TCCC	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CH	M	Plant new trees in tree harvest area near barn foundation	Volunteers/TCCC	2012	\$500	\$500.00				
CH	M	Regrade part of access drive that has become rutted	Town of Windsor	2012	\$3,000	\$3,000.00				
DNR	M	Clear brush near creek in select areas for fishing access	Eagle Scouts	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DNR	M	Develop formalized plan with DNR for pond management and fish stocking	TCCC/DNR	2012	\$0	\$0.00				
FO	M	Annual invasive species inspection	TCCC/Volunteers	spring, annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FO	M	Creek and clean culverts as needed.	Town of Windsor	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FO	M	Clear brush from trails.	Town of Windsor/Volunteers	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FO	M	Remove invasive species - garlic mustard - sheet mulch small areas to smother	Volunteers	spring, annually	\$200	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
FO	M	Remove invasive species - cut and treat buckhorn and honeysuckle	volunteer's	annually	\$200	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
OWS	M	Reuse of picnic tables for the Conservancy as they are replaced in other Windsor Parks	Town of Windsor	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
OWS	M	Maintain tree canopy in the mowed areas. inspect annually.	Town of Windsor	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
OWS	M	Develop timeline for stream bank vegetation restoration with DNR	TCCC/DNR	2012	\$0	\$0.00				
OWS	M	Develop written plan for stream channel and wetland re-naturalization with DNR	TCCC/DNR	2012	\$0	\$0.00				
OWS	M	Parking lot - regrade and add gravel as needed.	TCCC/Town of Windsor	13	\$800	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
RT	M	Clean culverts from both ponds leading into the creek	Town of Windsor	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RT	M	Fill holes in trails and trim tree branches from trails	Volunteers/Town of Windsor	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RT	M	Inspect trees for broken limbs and other needed work.	Town of Windsor	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RT	M	Communicate with neighbors about brush pickup and dumping on Conservancy lands.	Town of Windsor	spring & summer	\$50	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
RT	M	Remove brush and debris from trails.	Town of Windsor/Volunteers	annually	\$50	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
RT	M	Remove brush from beside the creek that had been dumped there	Town of Windsor	2012	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WET	M	Monitor water quality of the stream.	Token Creek Watershed Assn.	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WET	M	Develop stream debris removal plan. Coordinate with the DNR	TCCC/DNR/ Trout Unlimited	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WET	M	Evaluate minor ponds in TCC with DNR	DNR/TCCC	2014	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WET	M	Develop detailed reed canary/wetland restoration and management plan. This diverse wetland will require several different methods throughout the area.	Consultant	2015	\$1,500				\$1,500.00	
Trails										
B-H	T	Link trail system to Revere Trails	DeForest Schools/Volunteers	2015+						

Area	Type	Task	Responsible Party	Year	Cost	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
BH	T	Clear new footpath to connect Big Hill wetlands to Big Hill trails	DeForest Schools/Volunteers	2015						
BH-WET	T	Further research trail connection between the Old Mill Site and Culver Hill.	Town of Windsor/TCCC	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BH-WET	T	Search for funding for boardwalk installation.	TCCC	annually	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BH-WET	T	Clear a 278' feet of forest trail just west of Portage Road. Remove brush and mark trail until it is well established.	Volunteers	2014	\$250		\$250.00			
BH-WET	T	Clear 1166 feet of forest and grass land trail from the new bridge to the Big Hill entrance. Remove brush and mark trail until it is well established.	TCCC/Volunteers	2014	\$500		\$500.00			
BH-WET	T	Work with Dane County and DNR on bridge design and permitting.	TCCC	2014	\$1,000		\$0.00			
BH-WET	T	Install 661 feet of boardwalk across wetland to new bridge location. \$50 per foot with volunteer help with install.	Contractor/Volunteers	2015	\$33,000				\$0.00	
BH-WET	T	Install new bridge across perennial stream way near Big Hill	Contractor	2014	\$2,000		\$2,000.00			
CH	T	Install hillside trail - steps into the hillside	Volunteer Project	2012	\$800	\$400.00				
CH	T	Install new mowed trail - approx 563 feet. Grade to level and reseed.	Contractor	2012	\$1,000	\$500.00				
FO	T	Clear 1780 feet of forest trails in the old pine forest. Remove brush and mark trail until it is well established	Volunteer/Contractor	2013	\$500		\$500.00			
FO	T	Clear a 600' foot loop of forest trail at the south end of the Management Area. Remove brush and mark trail until it is well established	Volunteer	2014	\$500		\$500.00			
FO	T	Install new 911 feet of mowed trail at north east section of Management Area. Grace as needed and add planks over ditch. This work should be done in the fall, with access granted through permission to come across farmers field.	volunteer/Contractor	2014	\$1,500		\$1,500.00			
FO	T	Clear 973 foot loop at the south east corner of this Management Area. Remove brush and mark trail until it is well established. Access from farmers field may be needed.	Volunteer	2015-2010	\$500				\$500.00	
FO	T	Grade and mow a 427 foot section of trail at the south end of the Management Area along farmers field. Access will be needed from farmers field.	Contractor/Volunteer	2015	\$1,000				\$1,000.00	
FO	T	Clear 1222 foot loop at the south east corner of this Management Area. Remove brush and mark trail until it is well established. Access from farmers field may be needed.	Volunteer	2015-2010	\$1,000				\$1,000.00	
RT	T	Mow trails thru this area and allow grass outside of trails to grow	Town of Windsor	2013	\$0	\$15,180.00	\$20,650.00	\$11,750.00	\$13,600.00	\$26,600.00

Funding Goal

2012 Proposed Budget	2013 Proposed Budget	2014 Proposed Budget	2015 Proposed Budget	2016 Proposed Budget
\$8,500.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00			
	\$ 4,000.00			\$ 15,000.00
\$13,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$27,000.00
\$15,180.00	\$20,650.00	\$11,750.00	\$13,600.00	\$26,600.00
(\$1,680.00)	(\$2,150.00)	\$250.00	(\$1,600.00)	\$400.00

Budget - From Town Operating Funds
Additional Funds - \$5,000 50% Match for Bridge
Additional Funds - \$2,500 100% Grant funded for Sign Replacements
Additional Funds - \$4,000 Memorial Funds and 50% Match of fund raiser
Additional Funds - \$15,000 Loan for shelter Construction

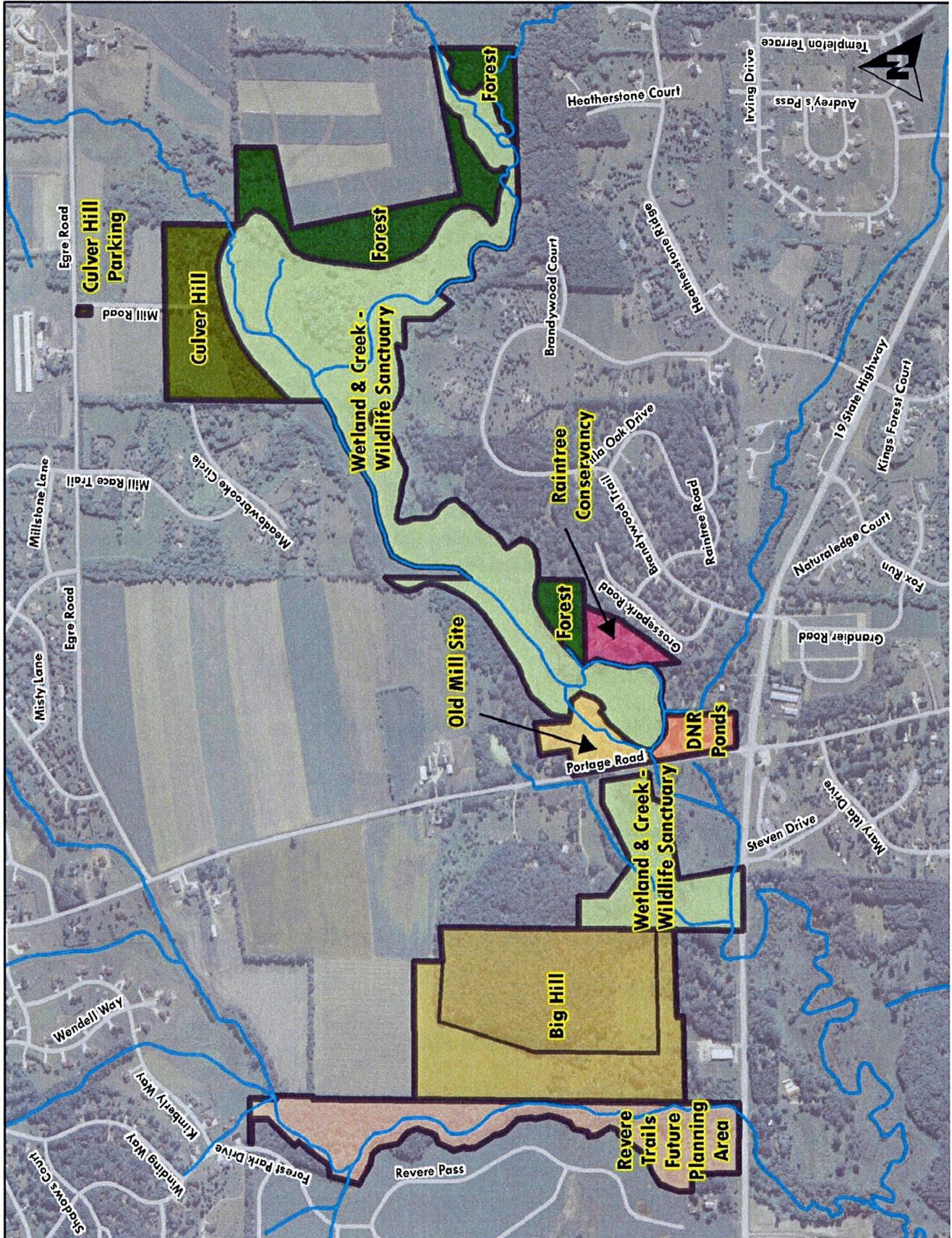
Total From All funding Sources
Subtract Funding Goal
Over / Under Value

MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Token Creek Conservancy is divided into eight (8) distinct management areas based on geography, shared habitat, restoration goals and objectives.

1. Culver Management Area
2. Forest Management Area
3. Wetland, Creek and Wildlife Sanctuary Management Area
4. Raintree Conservancy Management Area
5. Old Mill Site Management Area
6. DNR Ponds Management Area
7. Big Hill Management Area
8. Trails

MANAGEMENT AREA MAP



CULVER MANAGEMENT AREA

The Culver Management Area consists of 66 acres purchased in 1999 as an addition to the Token Creek Conservancy. The property is named after Elmer and Edna Culver who owned a farm and several ponds at this location. They were early advocates of the stewardship movement. There are recorded stewardship plans dating back to the early 1970's. This property was a tremendous addition to the Conservancy and has allowed for the development of a series of trails, a native prairie and wonderful scenic views of the creek and wetlands.

ENTRANCE

The entrance to the Culver Management Area is located at the northeast entrance of the Token Creek Conservancy (TCC) at the intersection of Egge Road and Mill Road. (3667 Egge Road) Mill Road is a private drive that leads into the most developed part of the TCC. A security gate, which has significantly improved safety concerns at the park, is located at the entrance with several parking stalls. The gate is locked during the week, but is opened for the weekend during the spring, summer and fall. During the winter season, the gate is locked but the parking stalls are plowed to provide a location for vehicles so that users can enjoy the park in the winter.

Goals for the entrance area are:

1. Increase visibility and recognition of the entrance.
2. Provide visitors with guidelines for recreational use.
3. Provide contact information.
4. Provide trail maps.
5. Inform visitors about restoration/management efforts and volunteer activities.
6. Maintain gate security.
7. Maintain Mill Road and parking areas.
8. Rename entrance sign. (Token Creek Conservancy – Elmer and Edna Conservancy entrance)
9. Add a shelter.

PRAIRIE

A large prairie was established in the northwest section of this management area with the help from the Token Creek Watershed Association who purchased the seeds. The prairie has been through two successful burns and appears to be in good health with the appropriate mix of native plants. The prairie needs to be monitored yearly for both diversity of native prairie plants and forbs species; as well as invasive or undesirable species. Test plots should be created to gauge the success of restoration efforts and will help guide future management practices. At a minimum, the prairie should contain 90% native plants and forbs, no more than 5% shrub species, and no more than 5% exotic species.

The prairie is one of the most visited parts of the TCC and extra care should be taken to provide educational and informational material for the public. Additional “test plot” areas could be created to promote other forms of conservation and ecological management of land and water. For example, a rain garden might be appropriate along the northwest corner to showcase stormwater management techniques. Also a berm and natural landscaping could be used to buffer the transition between the future home sites to the north of the prairie and the Conservancy.

Goals for the prairie area are:

1. Divide prairie into two sections and burn ½ of prairie annually, or as needed.
2. Monitor and treat prairie for invasive and exotic plants.
3. Re-seed when necessary to keep diversity of prairie plants and forbs.
4. Establish berm on north border.
5. Screening should be considered to maintain privacy from future home sites.
6. Install interpretive and educational material.
7. Install Leopold benches.

PRAIRIE HILLSIDE FOREST

The mixed hardwood forests in southern Wisconsin are a highly diverse mixture of a very wide variety of broadleaf tree species. The prairie hillside forest contains a stand of mixed central hardwoods and is approximately 5 acres in size. This stand includes a mixture of green ash, black cherry, walnut, black oak, cottonwood, box elder, norway spruce, white pine, white

cedar and red pine. There is a considerable amount of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and dame's rocket present in this area. This site contains several loop trails and one dead-end trail at the creek.

Goals for the Prairie Hillside Forest area are:

1. Include area in the Forest Management Plan for the Conservancy.
2. Clear brush and monitor for invasives annually.
3. Plant grass seed on new trails.
4. Install footbridge over gullied slope connecting the trail to the eastern side of the Culver Hill Management area.

EASTERN HILLSIDE FOREST

The eastern hillside forest contained many undesirable species and was harvested in 2009 to clear the area for a stand of walnut and mixed hardwoods. To date, no planting plan has been established for this area. The site covers approximately 3 acres and has an established trail along the southern boundary.

Goals for the Eastern Hillside Forest area are:

1. Include with management plans for Central Hardwood Forests of the Conservancy.
2. Clear brush and monitor for invasives annually.
3. Create a loop trail.
4. Maintain and repair hillside barn foundation.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AREA

There are several types of forests in this management area, and while each area may have different tree species, the management of the forests will be the same. Removing invasive species, such as honeysuckle and buckthorn, wild parsnip and garlic mustard will be a priority. The TCCC should develop a professional forest management plan that includes the following guidelines.

Forest Management Plan Goals/Opportunities

1. Selectively cut trees with the objective of improving health, biodiversity and longevity of the forest. Heritage trees may be identified for preservation.
2. Replant trees (saplings preferred) where identified by the Forest Management Plan, or as needed. The objective should strive for improving the overall health, species diversity, food variety and canopy cover of the forest. Reforestation should provide for a staggered maturity of trees.
3. Strictly control timber harvesting to minimize damage to healthy forest areas and control the introduction of invasive species. Any harvesting will require strict quality control standards and site restoration. The site will be inspected by a member of the TCCC or Windsor Staff to confirm that all conditions have been satisfied.
4. Clear brush from within the forest if it is not a value as habitat or is a safety concern.
5. Monitor and treat forest for invasive and exotic species. Develop management plans for the control of invasive and unwanted species.
6. Develop trail network where appropriate.

WETLAND, CREEK & WILDLIFE SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT AREA

This management area includes the Big Hill wetland area along with the wetlands connecting the Old Mill Site and Culver Hill. The priority for this area is to manage invasive plants such as reed canary grass. Due to the difficulty of managing invasive plants in this area, a formal management plan shall be created and efforts should focus on preventing the spread of invasive plants and protecting water quality in the wetlands and stream. Any trail development through this area will likely require an elevated boardwalk. The goal is to create a through trail from the Northeast to the Southwest.

Goals/Opportunities

1. Investigate the possibility of creating a trail linking the Northeast (Culver Hill) with the Southwest (Old Mill Site).
2. Set up stream water quality monitoring protocol.
3. Develop a reed canary grass and other invasive plant management plan.
4. Investigate funding opportunities for a boardwalk.
5. Continue stream restoration efforts; work with property owners to gain access for DNR stream work.
6. Remove deadfall and debris from stream to keep a balance between aquatic habitat and the prevention of excess flooding.
7. Add a sign for Big Hill Wetlands.
8. Add a bridge by Big Hill.

RAINTREE CONSERVANCY MANAGEMENT AREA

The Raintree Management Area is approximately 3 acres in size and includes the Raintree ponds and their culverts as well as the area that is currently mowed around the ponds and conservancy entrance. The Raintree Conservancy can be reached by taking Grossepark Road in the Raintree subdivision. (6377 Grossepark Road) This area was acquired in two phases. A portion was originally dedicated to the Town of Windsor as parkland as part of the Raintree Subdivision. Later, Wilfred and Verena Grosse donated the ponds to the Town of Windsor with the condition that they are maintained in as open space. Therefore this area is managed as part of the Conservancy system and not like other recreational parks in Windsor.

The TCCC would like to transition this area to a natural meadow or low prairie. Currently the area is maintained as a regular park and the grass is mowed once a week in the summer. Since this area is considered part of the Conservancy, the goal should be to manage the property consistently with the rest of the Conservancy land. The TCCC should create a sub-committee with representatives from the Raintree Neighborhood to discuss future plans for this area. The sub-committee should investigate the possibility of converting to a short grass prairie or meadow in the future. The trails should be mowed paths. The committee shall also look at trail siting options and find ways to maintain privacy and safety for the neighborhood while still providing guided access for recreational users. This area will continue to be managed for passive recreational uses, such as walking, nature viewing and fishing.

Goals/Opportunities

1. Create a Sub-Committee for Raintree Conservancy Planning.
2. Investigate low grass or low prairie plants for this management area to replace lawn.
3. Include Raintree woodlands as subsection of the future Forest Master Plan.
4. Add several benches.
5. Restore vegetative cover at the creek to prevent erosion.
6. Maintain culverts.
7. Monitor and address ways to improve the water quality and habitat of this area.
8. Convert entrance sign to identify Raintree as a component of the Token Creek Conservancy.

9. Maintain a visual border around the boundary of the Conservancy to protect private property.
10. Clean trails and stream of debris and monitor for invasives.

OLD MILL SITE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Old Mill Site once contained the last functioning mill in Token Creek and is located along the eastern side of Portage Road, just north of Highway 19. (6394 Portage Road) The Old Mill Site area includes the Token Creek Cemetery, Veterans Memorial, Portage Road entrance to the Conservancy and the larger mowed area near the old spillway. The management of this area should focus on uses such as fishing, education, picnicking and maintaining the Veterans Memorial and Token Creek Cemetery.

Goals/Opportunities

1. Convert entrance sign to identify the Old Mill Site as a component of the Token Creek Conservancy.
2. Install a bridge to connect to the Raintree section of the Conservancy.
3. Install benches at bridge site, wetland view site, and cemetery.
4. Install a new kiosk.
5. Install a shelter. Develop a written plan to address stream channel and wetland rehabilitation with the Wis. DNR.
6. Coordinate re-seeding of disturbed land from restoration work (only after all restoration work has been completed).

DNR PONDS MANAGEMENT AREA

This area is owned by the DNR and managed by the Town of Windsor/TCCC with an intergovernmental land use agreement that expires April 1, 2012. The management area includes two ponds, parking areas and an historical marker. Originally, the DNR used the ponds for rearing fish. These rearing ponds were eventually abandoned for alternative sites more suitable to the DNR. However, the DNR has continued to stock a small amount of fish at the ponds from time to time.

The primary focus for this management area should be on coordinating a new land use agreement for the DNR Ponds and to achieve Urban Fishery designation to revive the stocking of the ponds. Currently an application for Urban Fishery status has been submitted by the DNR with help from the Token Creek Conservancy. The contract shall negotiate other arrangements with the Wis.DNR regarding the management and future use of the ponds regardless of the Urban Fishery designation so that the TCCC can make reliable plans for this area.

If Urban Fishery designation is achieved, then the TCCC can move forward with plans to create a fishing site for youth and the handicapped. This plan would include creating a pier/platform that would allow easy access over the edge of the pond for fishing and would be designed predominantly for wheelchair access. In addition, a handicapped accessible trail would be necessary to provide transport from the parking lot to the pier.

The TCCC would also like to use this site for an educational walk with interpretive signs about the importance of the watershed, conservation and appropriate land use. Recent discussions with the Wis.DNR have been positive but an agreement is necessary to cement the relationship for the next 15 years and resolve uncertainties about the future of the ponds and the Town of Windsor/TCCC's involvement in the maintenance of the site.

The TCCC and the Wis.DNR should discuss a contingency plan for the DNR ponds in the event that they no longer used by the Wis.DNR. Windsor should be involved with the future use of this site, and be offered an opportunity to reclaim the property as part of the Token Creek Conservancy. These discussions should occur at the time that Windsor the the Wis.DNR renegotiate the intergovernmental land use agreement that expires April 1, 2012. This agreement should also cover the stocking of fish, aeration of the ponds, management needs and expectations to see this location managed appropriately for the next ten years.

Goals/Opportunities

1. Renew Land Use Agreement with the Wis.DNR.
2. Obtain Urban Fishery Designation.
 - i. Provide a security plan for the ponds.

- ii. Post rules and regulations for fishing.
- iii. Build handicapped accessible pier/platform.
- iv. Provide appropriate parking for access to ponds.
- v. Design educational signs or stations.
- vi. Improve handicap parking access.
- vii. Coordinate stocking of fish annually.
- viii. Supply aeration for the ponds.
- ix. Monitor water quality at the ponds.

BIG HILL MANAGEMENT AREA

The Big Hill Management area contains Big Hill (a gift to Windsor and the DeForest Area School District from Cecil and Bernadine Smith) and an additional generous donation by the Fred and Helen Chase family. Also part of this management area is the former Yngsdahl property purchased by Windsor. The area is managed to provide an outdoor classroom for students and has a strong educational focus. The property contains 3 ponds, a restored prairie, a small farming plot, the woodlands of the Big Hill and wetlands near the creek.

The Big Hill Mission Statement

The mission of the Big Hill Environmental Center is to engage, challenge, and inspire students; bringing awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of nature leads to sound stewardship of the earth. The Big Hill Environmental Center is the School Forest of the DeForest Area School District (DASD) and the Town of Windsor. Big Hill is an integral part of the Token Creek Watershed that feeds into the Yahara River Water System. It is an exceptional opportunity to enhance education for students and teachers by learning in a natural setting. Integrating curricular content areas with environmental education is an effective way to increase student awareness and to help them become better stewards of the earth.

Big Hill Education Goals/Opportunities

1. Repair and replace educational markers as needed.
2. Continue 1st – 4th grade educational experiences.
3. Develop science and physical Education curriculum for middle school.
4. Encourage a greater understanding of energy and the eco-system K-12.
5. Broaden understanding of biodiversity changes in environment and human impact k-12.
6. Develop and organize Big Hill hikes for students and families.

BIG HILL PRAIRIE

The Big Hill Prairie is approximately two (2) acres in size. It was previously a gravel pit and then it was planted with grass to minimize erosion. In 2001 the DeForest Area School District began to prepare the site for the installation of a prairie. The area proved to be difficult to establish with prairie seed because there was very little top soil left behind. Students annually collect seeds which are nurtured by the High School Horticulture students in the school greenhouse until May. The students then plant the seedlings in the prairie every year. The prairie is also maintained by a biennially burn.

Big Hill Prairie Goals/Opportunities

1. Burn Prairie as needed.
2. Monitor and treat prairie for invasive and exotic plants.
3. Re-seed when necessary to keep diversity of prairie plants and forbs.
4. Expand prairie to hillside, west of the path.
5. Design a prairie flower guide for public and educational use.
6. Conduct community work days for maintenance of the prairie.
7. Develop educational programs and explorations for this location.

BIG HILL FOREST

The Big Hill Forest is approximately 30 acres in size and includes a small Pine tree plantation along with native Burr Oak, Black Oak, White Oak and Walnut trees. You can find Jack in the Pulpit, May Apple, Early Meadow Rue, Wild Geranium and other plants in the forested area.

Big Hill Forest Goals/Opportunities

1. Monitor forest to preserve the health of native trees, erosion control, and manage invasive and exotic species.
2. Conduct community work days for maintenance of the forest and to clear and mark trails.

3. Align management decisions with the Mission Statements of the TCCC and Big Hill.
4. Develop educational programs and explorations for this location.

BIG HILL PONDS

The ponds at Big Hill are manmade and were created when the gravel pit was operational. Trails lead to the Ponds and the largest pond has a wonderful floating dock.

Big Hill Pond Goals/Opportunities

1. Clear the trail around the pond for improved access.
2. Clear brush and debris from the pond.
3. Maintain pier.
4. Monitor water quality.
5. Develop educational explorations for this location.

BIG HILL WETLANDS

The wetland areas near the Big Hill also include a recent land purchase by Windsor that links the Big Hill site with the eastern portion of the Token Creek Conservancy along Portage Road.

Big Hill Wetlands

1. Investigate opportunities for the purchase of additional land along the creek.
2. Include area with Wetland Management Plan.
3. Monitor water quality.
4. Continue stream restoration efforts.
5. Add a sign for Big Hill Wetlands by Portage Road.

6. Add a trail from Portage Road to Big Hill.
7. Add a walking bridge over the creek.

MISC MANAGEMENT AND LANDS OWNED BY OTHERS

DEFOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

The DeForest Area School District owns property abutting Big Hill. The TCCC should continue to coordinate activities with the School District to ensure harmonious and mutually beneficial use of this area. This will be the responsibility of the Liaison and TCCC member representing the DeForest Area School District and the Big Hill Committee.

REVERE TRAILS

Revere Trails is a pending subdivision directly to the west of the Token Creek Conservancy border. As part of this development, land is being added to this edge of the Conservancy and will include a walking/multi use trail oriented North/South. There will also be an access into the walking trails of the Conservancy. When this property is developed, boundary/no hunting signs shall be erected as well as a sign for the Token Creek Conservancy - Revere Trails entrance.

MAYR PARKVIEW ESTATES

Mayr Parkview Estates is a small preliminary 5 lot subdivision directly to the north of the Token Creek Conservancy boarder along Egge Road. As part of this development, an on-site storm water management plan and Stewardship plan will need to be approved by the TCCC. The TCCC should also ensure that appropriate screening is planted to maintain a privacy buffer between the Conservancy and the private property. When this property is developed, boundary/no hunting signs shall be erected.

TRAILS

Making the publicly owned Conservancy land accessible for residents to enjoy is one of the main goals of the Master Plan. The Conservancy is quite diverse and includes wetlands, springs, creek, ponds, woods, prairie and mowed areas. This diversity makes the Conservancy an interesting and beautiful place, but also creates challenges in planning trails connecting the entire area.

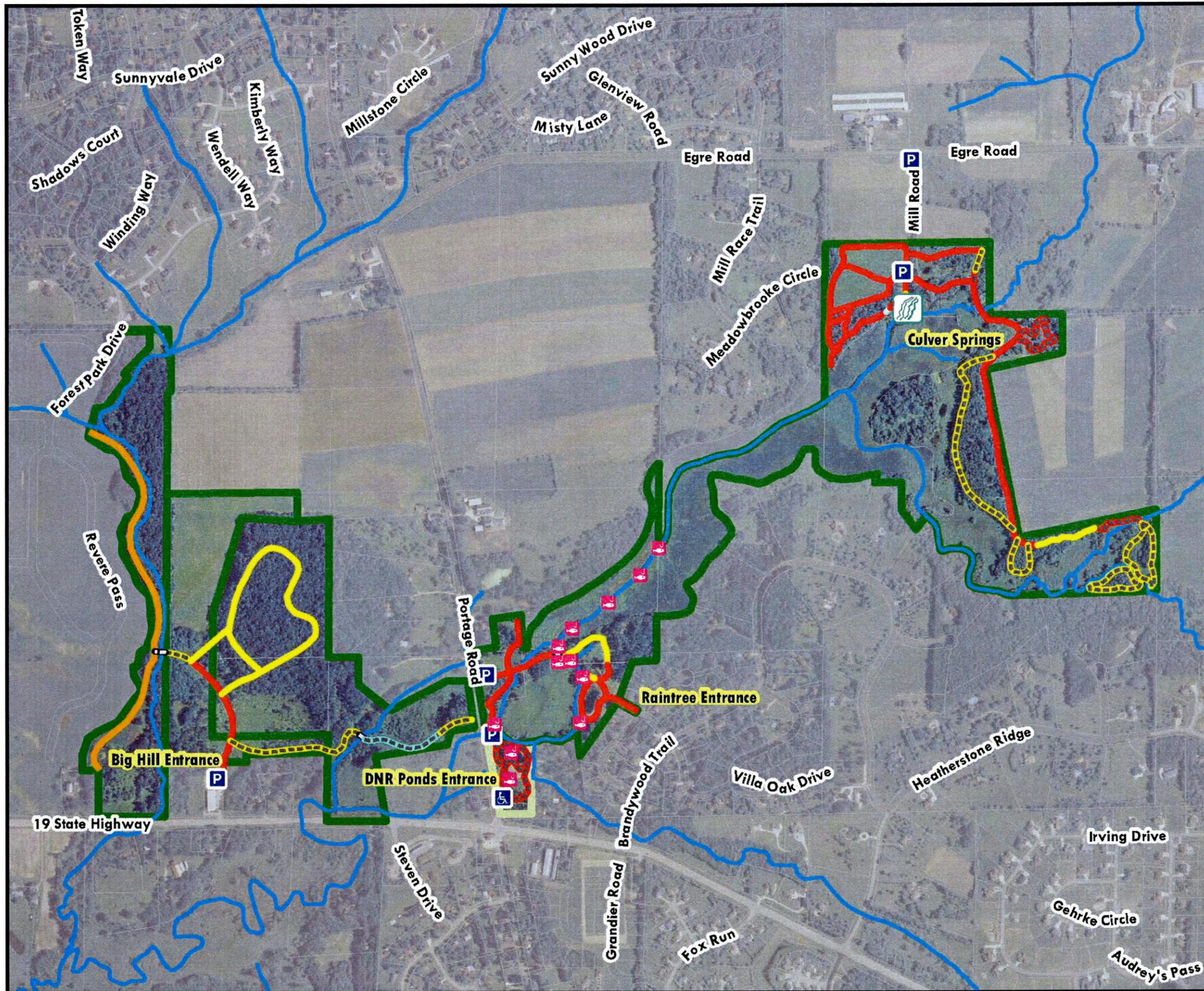
Low impact trails, exclusive to walking, are appropriate for this environmentally sensitive area. Mowed trails and footpaths will be the most common trail types, with boardwalk trails through wetland areas coming in future years or as funding becomes available. Motorized vehicles (snowmobiles, ATV's etc.) and bicycles do not fit in with the management philosophy of this area are not allowed on TCC trails.

Privacy and safety for private property owners bordering the Token Creek Conservancy were considered in trail locations and whenever possible trails should be kept away from residential property lines. A trail network is planned that traverses the most suitable land in the Conservancy. As much as possible, trails have interconnections throughout the Conservancy which is desirable in the sense that it makes the property available to the public and creates little need for hikers to leave the trails. With the TCC borders relatively well marked, a complete trail system should keep people from exploring onto neighboring properties.

Trail locations prove to be a challenge within portions of the Conservancy containing wetlands and areas of springs. High and dry land should be utilized to plan trail locations. However, there are areas within the Conservancy where boardwalk may be the only option. Future trails through the wetlands will be explored based upon economic resources and the ability to work with affected property owners.

As trails are constructed, minor changes in trail locations should be expected based upon current conditions. For example, if a few trees died or were removed and made the view better a short distance from a planned trail, that trail location may be adjusted to take advantage of the view. Or, a spring may be discovered and the trail would need to be adjusted to avoid the spring.

All of the planned mowed trails and footpaths are also appropriate for winter snowshoeing. Signage marking these trails for the winter months should be considered, whether they be seasonal signs or permanent ones. Cross country skiing could also be considered in limited areas where the paths are wider, such as in the prairie and adjacent forests.



TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY MASTER PLAN

Trails (Existing & Planned)

- Boardwalk, Existing
- Boardwalk, Existing
- Bridge, Planned
- Dane County Multi-Use Trail
- Footpath, Existing
- Footpath, Planned
- Mowed, Existing
- Mowed, Planned
- Streams

Boundaries

- Token Creek Conservancy
- WDNR Property
- Parcels

Points of Interest

- ADA Parking, Planned
- Parking
- Fishing Location

OVERALL MAP



ADMINISTRATION

MANAGEMENT PLANS

The physical size and diversity of the Conservancy requires that management be a priority consideration. Formal Management Plans should be prepared for each of the unique Management Areas to facilitate the proper administration of projects and to achieve the desired outcome. Windsor Town Staff, in conjunction with the Token Creek Conservancy Committee (TCCC) should prepare clear requests for proposals that define the parameters and expectations for the Management Plans. In order to effectively evaluate proposals, the TCCC should request multiple bids.

Requests for Proposals should contain the following information:

1. Written description of the goals and expectations of the proposal.
2. Timeline for the Management Plan.
3. Expected cost to achieve the results of the Management Plan.
4. Emphasis on environmentally sensitive ways to manage invasive or undesirable species.
5. Identify alternative funding and cost sharing resources.
6. Evidence of insurance and/or credentials.
7. Examples of consultant's previous work.
8. References.

MAINTENANCE & BUDGET FORECASTS

The TCCC shall annually review the maintenance needs of the Token Creek Conservancy. The review should also consider the various Management Plans and Master Plan to help prioritize the assignment of annual projects with relationship to the expected budget. The TCCC should consider cost effective and low maintenance improvements to the Conservancy in order to maximize the use of funding resources.

Projects should be planned well in advance in order to utilize Windsor Public Works Staff (where appropriate), volunteer based help or contractors. This will allow for the proper noticing, scheduling of work and obtaining requests for proposals from contractors. All projects should be monitored by a TCCC member or assigned Windsor Staff representative. A monthly timeline of project needs could be of assistance and should be considered for annually reoccurring projects.

Members of the TCCC are expected to organize at least one approved work day or project annually. Work days should be planned well in advance to coordinate volunteer work activities with other organizations and/or assistance from contractors. A TCCC member will be assigned as project leader for the work day and is responsible for finding the appropriate equipment and helpers for that day.

The TCCC will work with Windsor Staff and Town Board to manage the annual budget. Windsor Staff can be of assistance (with adequate notice) to help prepare grant applications when appropriate. A designated member of the TCCC (usually the Chair) should discuss budget planning and special assistance needed from the Town Board at least annually. Large expenditures should be planned with advice from the Town Board and staff. In particular, equipment purchases should be reviewed by town employees expected to operate and maintain the equipment.

SIGNS AND BOUNDARY MARKERS

ENTRANCE SIGNS

The Token Creek Conservancy lacks an integrated system of signage to identify the areas and entrances of the Conservancy. A unified and cohesive system of signs should be designed for the Conservancy to help identify the individual areas and entrances as part of the larger Token Creek Conservancy System. This will help foster an identity for the Conservancy and distinguish it from the nearby Dane County Token Creek Park. New development with land bordering the Conservancy shall be required to install the initial signs as part of the Developers Agreement.

Sign Design Considerations:

1. A logo or symbol may be considered to help promote the Conservancy.
2. Token Creek Conservancy should be the most prominent feature of the sign.
3. Entrance location should be the secondary visible feature of the sign.
4. All signs should be standardized and uniform in size and appearance.
5. If necessary, naming rights for the signs should be investigated.

INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNS

Interpretive and educational signs are permitted in the Conservancy and can be very helpful in identifying unique features, processes, environments and species. These signs, however, should be minimized and placed in a manner that prevents a cluttered appearance that disrupts the natural aesthetics of the Conservancy. Where practical, information should be provided at a Kiosk at the entrance of the Conservancy where visitors will have the opportunity to review materials.

BOUNDARY MARKERS

Boundary markers have been utilized throughout the Conservancy to distinguish Windsor property from private property. The signs have been placed around the perimeter corners by a certified surveyor. Proper boundary markers make it possible to address property management concerns. New development with land bordering the Conservancy shall be required to install boundary signs (where needed to protect Town interests and private property owners) as part of the Developer's Agreement.

PARTNERSHIPS

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Town of Windsor has had a successful relationship with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wis.DNR) and for many years jointly managed the DNR Trout Ponds. In addition, the Wis.DNR has lead efforts to stabilize the stream bank and restore wetlands within the Conservancy. The TCCC should help facilitate continued collaborative agreements and projects with the Wis.DNR.

The current Intergovernmental Land Use Agreement for the DNR Ponds needs to be renegotiated before April 1, 2012. Plans for the DNR Trout Ponds should be coordinated with DNR Staff. The TCCC should continue efforts to obtain Urban Fishery status at the DNR Ponds and implement a program for youth and handicapped fishing at the site. A formalized agreement will cement the relationship and obligations for the management of the DNR Trout Ponds and ensure program continuity and consistency as changes among staff occur.

The TCCC should continue to work with the Wis.DNR to complete the stream bank stabilization and restoration work. The TCCC could help facilitate negotiations with private land owners to provide access to complete the remainder of the restoration. Ultimately the goal should be to complete the final phase of the restoration efforts started with the removal of the Mill Pond Dam.

TOKEN CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

The TCCC should continue to work closely with the Token Creek Watershed Association. In the past, the Token Creek Watershed Association has provided valuable citizen and neighborhood support for the Token Creek Conservancy, helped to build community and governmental collaboration, and engaged in fundraising efforts for the Conservancy. One member of the TCCC, per ordinance, is required to be a member of the Token Creek Watershed Association. This individual shall function as a liaison between the groups and foster cooperation on projects and goals that benefit the Conservancy and Watershed.

WINDSOR PARKS COMMISSION

One member of the TCCC, per Windsor ordinance, is required to be a member of the Windsor Parks Commission. This individual shall function as a liaison between the groups and foster cooperation on projects and goals that benefit the Conservancy and Windsor Parks. As development occurs, the TCCC and Windsor Parks Commission should coordinate trail planning to link Windsor Parks to the Token Creek Conservancy, where appropriate. From time to time, major projects could involve joint planning and benefit from the expertise and experience that each group has to offer. In addition, the TCCC and Windsor Parks Commission should jointly manage the Windsor “Comprehensive Outdoor, Recreation and Open Space Plan”.

DEFOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The DeForest Area School District manages the Big Hill Learning Center which comprises a large portion of the Big Hill Management Area. One member of the TCCC, per Windsor ordinance, is required to be a member of the DeForest Area School District (and a member of the Big Hill Committee). This individual shall function as a liaison between the groups and foster cooperation on projects and goals that benefit the Conservancy and School District. Educational outreach and planning efforts could be expanded to other parts of the Conservancy to enhance the outdoor learning environment vision of the School District as well as provide educational opportunities for visitors to the Conservancy.

FRIENDS OF THE TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY

The TCCC should investigate developing a volunteer based “Friends” group to help with implementing projects throughout the Conservancy. A friends group would allow individuals to be part of the management of the Conservancy in a more social setting. Successful friends groups often raise money independently for special targeted projects and can have considerable influence in bringing additional resources to the Token Creek Conservancy. Many examples exist of volunteer groups working collaboratively with government in order to achieve common goals. Often times these groups focus on education, outreach, research and fund raising that would otherwise be unattainable by the government alone.

OTHER PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Potential partnership and collaboration opportunities should be encouraged and explored with other citizen groups and service/civic organizations which should be further explored (i.e. Lions Club; Scouts; Rotary Club; Chambers of Commerce; sportsmen and environmental groups; bicycle federations; 4-H clubs; county and state officials; churches; senior citizen facilities in DeForest, Windsor and Sun Prairie; veterans groups; Audubon Society; Trout Unlimited, Dane County Conservation League, River Alliance; Sierra Club, etc.).

LAW ENFORCEMENT

WINDSOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

The TCCC shall meet with a Windsor Law Enforcement representative annually to discuss security concerns at the Conservancy. Recreation areas elsewhere have unfortunately experienced vandalism and unacceptable behavior by users. Minimizing such inappropriate/destructive behavior in Token Creek Conservancy should be a priority. Potential topics could include adding trail patrols and increased patrolling of the Conservancy. The area should also be monitored to prevent hunting and trapping since these activities are prohibited in the Conservancy.

SECURITY GATE AT CULVER ENTRANCE

The security gate at the Culver entrance has been a recent addition at the Token Creek Conservancy and has greatly diminished the incidences of vandalism and inappropriate behavior at the Conservancy. The security gate is currently managed by contract and is open on the weekends during spring, summer and fall. This arrangement should be reviewed annually. If public interest to have the gate open during the week becomes an issue, a meeting with local law enforcement should be considered to address the continued security concern for the area due to the fact that the lower parking lot is not visible from the road.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Most of the Conservancy is bordered by private residential homes. A neighborhood watch program for the Conservancy by neighbors should be explored. It may prove to be empowering to neighbors if they can be a part of determining acceptable behavior in the Conservancy, and would speed law enforcement responses through timely notifications. A neighborhood watch program would involve an education program and a system for neighbors to report to authorities possible questionable activities within the Conservancy.

GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Additional non-farm development is likely to occur within or adjacent to the Token Creek watershed where permitted by pertinent comprehensive plans. Such changes may impact the environment within the Token Creek Conservancy. The TCCC should strive for a more formal role in Land Division and Zoning Review to protect this important natural resource. The TCCC could request an amendment to the Windsor Land Division Ordinance to permit a formal review of proposed projects in the Watershed by the Token Creek Conservancy Committee. At a minimum, the Windsor Staff representative on the TCCC should monitor the implications of proposed projects, regulatory approaches and comprehensive/cooperative plans and amendments as they may pertain to the Token Creek Conservancy and report back to the TCCC. The TCCC and the Token Creek Watershed Association should also be consulted about Stormwater Management Plans prior to County approval within the watershed as they may have a significant impact on the Conservancy.

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

WATERBORNE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Due to the sensitive nature of the environment at the Token Creek Conservancy (water fowl nesting habitat and natural springs), along with unpredictable water levels, waterborne recreational activities like canoeing, kayaking and flotation rafts are discouraged. The TCCC shall discourage such activities within the Conservancy. In addition, the TCCC should investigate options to protect the sensitive springs and nesting sites from human impact.

HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FIREARMS

The Token Creek Conservancy is managed to preserve natural resources and to provide a habitat and refuge for wildlife. With this goal in mind, Hunting, Trapping and Firearms are prohibited within the boundary of the Conservancy. Exceptions will be by permit only and shall be an option of last resort to control a species for health, safety concerns or population control.

CAMPING AND CAMP FIRES

To maintain the pristine character of the Token Creek Conservancy and to minimize potential safety hazards to individuals and property, camping and camp fires are prohibited in the Conservancy. Occasional exceptions may be granted by the Token Creek Conservancy Committee and Windsor Law Enforcement as part of an organized event.

ADDITIONAL UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY – VEHICLES & DOGS

There shall be no unauthorized motor vehicles, all-terrain vehicles or bicycles on any trail in the Conservancy. Vehicles may park in designated parking areas only. In addition, dogs are not permitted within the Conservancy. The area is an important habitat for ground nesting wildlife and dogs (even leashed dogs) are absolutely prohibited from the site.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A – TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY NATURAL RESOURCES

APPENDIX B – TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY HISTORY

APPENDIX C – FOREST MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY NATURAL RESOURCES



~ Prepared by Alan J Harvey, Attorney at Law

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INTRODUCTION

Token Creek Conservancy (Conservancy) is a diverse resource area specifically set aside for the protection and preservation of a valuable natural environment. The Conservancy is owned by the Town of Windsor and managed by a 7 member Token Creek Conservancy Committee. The Conservancy is the central feature of the 27 square mile Token Creek watershed. The Token Creek watershed extends north to the Dane/Columbia county border, east to Sun Prairie, and south of Cherokee Marsh on Madison's north side.

The defining feature of Token Creek Conservancy is its exceptional water resources. Fed by a series of natural springs, boils and seeps, Token Creek is the only cold water fishery in the northeast quadrant of Dane County. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wis.DNR) has classified Token Creek as a Class III trout stream. Token Creek's baseflow comes primarily from a series of spring complexes, the largest of which is located in the Wetlands Management Area to the south of the Culver Management Area.

Token Creek is the primary contributor to the Yahara River, which in turn feeds Lake Mendota. Baseflow per square mile of the Token Creek watershed is much greater than for the nearby, better known Yahara River; this suggests that Token Creek likely has a larger groundwater basin than the surface watershed.

The Token Creek watershed area was glaciated during the most recent Wisconsin glacial advance; most of the upland areas were only covered with a thin sheet of glacial material. However, in some places glacial cover can reach 200 feet or more. The glacial deposits are underlain by 800 to 1000 feet of Ordovician and Cambrian dolomite and sandstone over Precambrian crystalline rock.

The northern portion of the Token Creek watershed consists of a plateau that extends into southern Columbia County; this area contains some of the world's finest quality farmland. The site of the former millpond is believed to be a glacial valley that was once part of glacial Lake Yahara. Soil sampling drilling conducted in 1997 suggests that this subsurface glacial valley is very steep sided at the location of the Culver Springs.

Culver Springs is a complex of several large boils and springs, with numerous smaller seeps. For many years, the largest of the springs were impounded by berms, creating four small ponds; the ponds were originally constructed by the Culver family for fish rearing purposes. While the cold baseflow provided by the springs gave Token Creek great potential for restoration as a trout habitat, the existence of the millpond and smaller fish-rearing ponds prior to their removal impounded and warmed these waters, impeding a proper habitat from being established.

The research report *An Improved Hydrogeologic Model for the Token Creek Watershed – Final Report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources* (Jean Marie Bahr & Laura Parent, 2001) concluded that the warming impact of the small fish-rearing ponds were negligible. But as a precaution and because fishery sustainability is sometimes a matter of small gradations in temperature, the four small fish-rearing ponds were breached in 2004.

Stream gauging done in 1997, 1999, and 2001 found that the Culver Springs complex contributes approximately 6 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the base flow of Token Creek, or approximately one-third of Token Creek's total base flow before it enters the Yahara River.

The Token Creek stream and springs complex provide significant base flow for the Yahara River and Lake Mendota downstream (approximately 40-50%). The predominant uses through which the stream passes are residential (7%), agricultural (73%) and wetland areas (4%), although this ratio will not remain constant due to urbanization in nearby parts of DeForest, Bristol, Sun Prairie, Madison and Windsor.

Modern production agriculture and non-agricultural development contribute sediment, herbicides, pesticides, and nutrients to Token Creek, decreasing its viability as a trout habitat and contributing to excessive rooted aquatic plants production. The impacts of these contaminants in the waters cause changes in the species of fish that can survive. Lowered oxygen levels decrease game fish, higher phosphorus and nitrogen levels cause increased algae blooms and growth of water-dependent weeds that reduce the recreational potential of the creek and downstream bodies of water.

At least two significant springs and numerous seeps have been identified in the area formerly covered by the millpond. These springs are identified by two tributaries to form well-

defined wetland/stream tracts that lead to the creek. Protecting the springs is critical to protecting the natural resources of Token Creek Conservancy. Abundant, cold water feeding the creek is essential to developing a healthy brook, and hopefully brown, trout population. The fact that areas of the creek support water cress plants is a positive sign.

THE WETLAND RESOURCES OF THE TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY

The removal of the dam and millpond created large new wetland areas, many of which are still evolving. Springs are dynamic, changing in location and water volume. In addition, the 18 acre wetlands addition to the Conservancy west of Portage Road contains diverse wetlands, shallow marshes, and wet meadows. Unfortunately, some of the wetlands have significant populations of invasive species, mainly reed canary grass, with some honeysuckle, parsnip, garlic mustard, and buckthorn (common and glossy).

Growing up wet is common for many kinds of wildlife. Northern pike, muskies and a variety of other fish species spawn in wetlands. Beavers, mink, muskrats, otters, deer, turkeys, ducks, geese, swans and an incredibly diverse group of songbirds and shorebirds are born and live in wetlands. So are turtles, snakes, frogs, toads and salamanders, and dragonflies, mayflies, snails and other invertebrates. Without wetlands, these animals, birds, reptiles and insects could not survive. In addition, bulrushes, cattails, waterlilies and sedges are just a few of the plants that grow in wetlands, providing shelter and food for wildlife.

Shallow wetlands warm sooner than deep-water marshes and lakes, providing shorebirds, waterfowl, herons and egrets with a rich supply of plants, frogs and insects for food in early spring. Shallow wetlands provide feeding and nesting habitat for waterfowl that prefer small, isolated bodies of water. Ducks breed in adjacent grasslands and feed off the wetland bottom for insects and plants. More wetlands mean more abundant food and cover variety, providing better habitat – habitat that will support deer, pheasants, songbirds, muskrats and other species at various points in their life cycles.

During periods of heavy rain, wetlands act as large reservoirs that help prevent flooding downstream. A one-acre wetland, holding water to a depth of one foot, will store 330,000 gallons of water. The stored waters then trickle back into the earth and help recharge groundwater supplies. The wetlands of the Token Creek Conservancy provide a valuable stormwater detention function for the surrounding area, containing vast quantities of stormwater during storm events.

After a heavy storm, wetlands capture runoff in their lush tangle of plants. The stilled waters allow sediments and pollutants to drop out of suspension. Tiny underwater organisms attached to plants intercept and break down nutrients and many types of pollutants, recycling them into new plant and animal life. This process works to prevent pollution of lakes and streams

THE SOILS OF THE TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' NRSC soils maps indicate that the prevalent soils in the Token Creek Conservancy are: Sable silty clay loam; Wacousta silty clay loam; Adrian muck; Whalan silt loam; Virgil silt loam; gravelly substratum.

Other than areas with Whalan silt loam, these soil types represent hydric soil conditions, lowland vegetation, wetlands and/or floodplains. Such soil have low structural strength for supporting any type of improvements or buildings, low load bearing capacity, and can be prone to erosion. The use of such areas is regulated by floodplain zoning ordinances. The floodplain areas are highly beneficial as stormwater storage areas during large storm events.

The Big Hill Management Area features Kidder and McHenry soil types; some such soil has been removed from the former quarry areas.

THE UPLANDS OF THE TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY

One of the features that makes the Token Creek Conservancy so wonderfully diverse, such a study in contrasts, are the unusual geographic contrasts within close proximity – the Big Hill, thrusting to an elevation of 1040 feet, within just a few hundred yards of lowland tributaries and marshes. Slopes range from virtually flat at creekside, nearly flat in border areas at 1-6%, and dramatically steep slopes of 10-20% in the vicinity of the Big Hill.

The Conservancy's Big Hill Management Area contains stands of hardwood trees, oak savannah areas, and a rich variety of brush and shrub types. Some heritage trees exist on the site.

The upland areas surrounding the former millpond area have a restored prairie area planted by the Token Creek Watershed Association, remnants of a planted pine stand, several upland and lowland hardwood areas, wet meadows, and shallow marshes.

The most common forest type groups are oak-hickory, maple-basswood, pines, aspen-birch, cottonwood, walnut-cherry, elm, and lowland conifers.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) indicates that perhaps two plant groups are one wetland type may be endangered or of special concern in the Token Creek Conservancy area: Small White Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*); Glade Mallow (*Napaea dioica*); Southern Sedge Meadows.

SOURCES

- *Lower Rock River Water Quality Management Plan*, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (2001)
- *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan – 2006-2011*, Dane County (2006)
- *Natural Heritage Inventory – By County*, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (2009)
- *An Improved Hydrogeologic Model for the Token Creek Watershed - Final Report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*, Jean Marie Bahr & Laura Parent (2001)

APPENDIX

~Prepared by Amy Anderson Schweppe

APPENDIX A - SOILS MAPS: Soil Survey of Dane County Wisconsin – A report by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service – **(Page 9)**

APPENDIX B – ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES OF WISCONSIN: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- B1 Statewide Ecological Landscapes – **(Page 11)**
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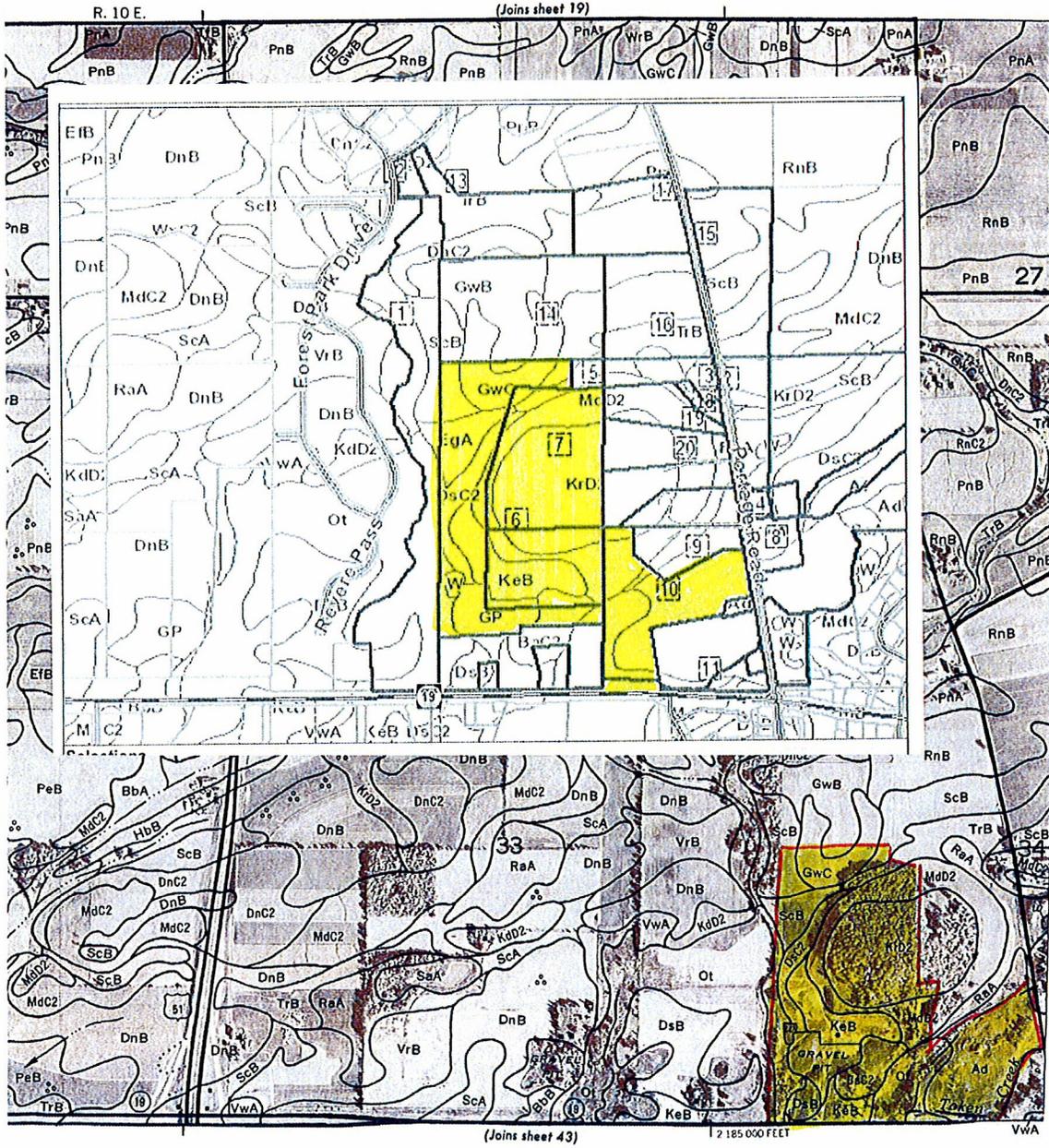
APPENDIX C – SOUTHEAST GLACIAL PLAINS SPECIES: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources– **(Page 21)**

APPENDIX A - SOILS MAPS

DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN - SHEET NUMBER 31

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Big Hill, School District Property and former Yngsdahl property

B1 – Statewide Ecological Landscapes

Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin - WDNR

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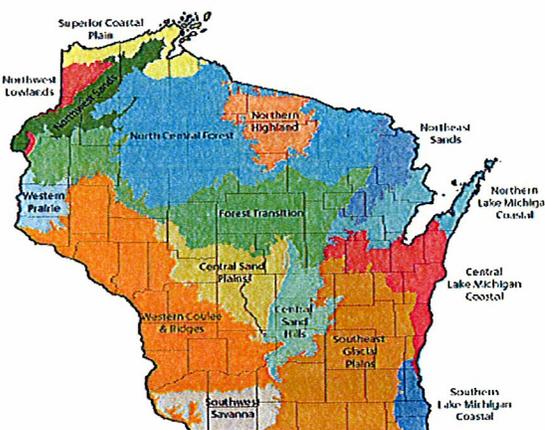
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UPDATE:
 The Ecosystem Management and Planning Team is currently working to complete the Ecological Landscapes Handbook. The new Handbook will contain 18 chapters: one for each of the 16 Ecological Landscapes, an Introductory chapter, and another chapter with background information. These chapters will be posted here as they become available. Many additional changes are planned for these Web pages in the coming months.

-- Choose an Ecological Landscape --

Ecological Landscapes are areas of Wisconsin that differ from each other in ecological attributes and management opportunities. They have unique combinations of physical and biological characteristics that make up the ecosystem, such as climate, geology, soils, water, or vegetation. They differ in levels of biological productivity, habitat suitability for wildlife, presence of rare species and natural communities, and in many other ways that affect land use and management.

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Inventory

Working List Information presented at this site is taken from The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin, a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources handbook. The handbook provides an assessment of each Ecological Landscape, including its ecological, social, and economic characteristics. It also identifies opportunities to manage resources with consideration for long-term ecological and economic sustainability. The information is used as a reference for managers, to help assess the ecological resources and opportunities that exist within the state and in the Ecological Landscapes where they work. The Ecological Landscape handbook was a collaborative effort by DNR staff from the following programs: Division of Forestry, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Division of Water, and the Bureau of Integrated Science Services.

Chapters are currently being written for each Ecological Landscape. As chapters are completed, they will be included here.

For any **questions** regarding the maps presented on this site or the "DNR Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin" handbook, please contact Jeff Schimpff at Jeff.Schimpff@wisconsin.gov. **Suggested Citation for Handbook:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In Prep. DRAFT Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin. State of Wisconsin, Dept. of Nat. Resources, Handbook. 1805.1. Madison, WI.

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General Description

The Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscape makes up the bulk of the non-coastal land area in southeast Wisconsin. This Ecological Landscape is made up of glacial till plains and moraines. Most of this Ecological Landscape is composed of glacial materials deposited during the Wisconsin Ice Age, but the southwest portion consists of older, pre-Wisconsin till with a more dissected topography. Soils are lime-rich tills overlain in most areas by a silt-loam loess cap. Agricultural and residential interests throughout the landscape have significantly altered the historical vegetation. Most of the rare natural communities that remain are associated with large moraines or in areas where the Niagara Escarpment occurs close to the surface.

Vegetation

Historically, vegetation in the Southeast Glacial Plains consisted of a mix of prairie, oak forests and savanna, and maple-basswood forests. Wet-mesic prairies, southern sedge meadows, emergent marshes, and calcareous fens

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Inventory were found in lower portions of the Landscape. End moraines and drumlins supported savannas and forests. Agricultural and urban land use practices have drastically changed the land cover of the Southeast Glacial Plains since Euro-American settlement. The current vegetation is primarily agricultural cropland. Remaining forests occupy only about 10% of the land area and consist of maple-basswood, lowland hardwoods, and oak. No large mesic forests exist today except on the Kettle Interlobate Moraine which has topography too rugged for agriculture. Some existing forest patches that were formerly savannas have succeeded to hardwood forest due to fire suppression.

Hydrologic Features

The Southeast Glacial Plains has the highest aquatic productivity for plants, insects, invertebrates, and fish, of any Ecological Landscape in the state. Significant river systems include the Mukwonago, Wolf, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Rock, Sugar, and Fox. Most riparian zones have been degraded through forest clearing, urban development, and intensive agricultural practices. The Ecological Landscape contains several large lakes, including those in the Madison area and in the Lake Winnebago Pool system. These lakes are important to many aquatic species including the lake sturgeon. Kettle lakes are common on end moraines and in outwash channels. In addition to Horicon Marsh, this Ecological Landscape contains important fens, tamarack swamp, wet prairies, and wet-mesic prairies that contain rare plants and animals. However, most wetlands have experienced widespread ditching, grazing, and infestation by invasive plants. Watershed pollution in the Ecological Landscape is about average according to rankings by Wisconsin DNR, but groundwater pollution is worse than average compared to the rest of the state.

Land Use

The total land area for the Ecological Landscape is approximately 4.9 million acres, of which only 10% is classified as timberland. Only about 4% of the area of this Ecological Landscape is publicly owned. Many of these are the least developed areas in southeastern Wisconsin, and the Kettle Moraine represents the largest contiguous patch of undeveloped land.

Socioeconomics

Socioeconomic data are summarized based on county-level approximations of the Ecological Landscape (referred to as a "region"). Economic data are available only on a political unit basis with counties as the smallest unit. The counties included in this socioeconomic region are Calumet, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green, Green Lake, Jefferson, Ozaukee, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Winnebago ("Southeast Glacial Plains Region"). Although the Southeast Glacial Plains Region is quite urban compared to other state areas, agriculture is very

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important. Among the regions it ranks third in percent of acreage in farmland, market value of agricultural products per acre, and milk production per acre; and it ranks second in corn production. (Farmland includes all land under farm ownership such as cropland, pastureland, and woodland.) The percentage of agricultural land sold and diverted to other uses is below average. Recreation is also important in this region. It has the highest number of fishery and wildlife areas, the second highest number of state parks and forests, and one of the highest ratios of water to land surface area. Per capita water use is near average. The Southeast Glacial Plains Region is economically prosperous with a well-educated and racially diverse population. The population density (188 persons/ sq. mile) is about twice that of the state as a whole (96 persons/ sq. mile), the second highest population density among the regions. This region has the third lowest population of elderly (over 65) while the proportion of nonwhites, especially Hispanics and African Americans, is one of the highest. The per capita income, average wage, and number of high school and college graduates are all third highest, while the rates of poverty and unemployment are both third lowest among the regions. The manufacturing sector is relatively strong, whereas farming, though very productive, does not provide a large percentage of jobs.

For any **questions** regarding the maps presented on this site or the "DNR Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin" handbook, please contact Jeff Schimpff at Jeff.Schimpff@wisconsin.gov. **Suggested Citation for Handbook:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In Prep. DRAFT Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin. State of Wisconsin, Dept. of Nat. Resources, Handbook. 1805.1. Madison, WI.

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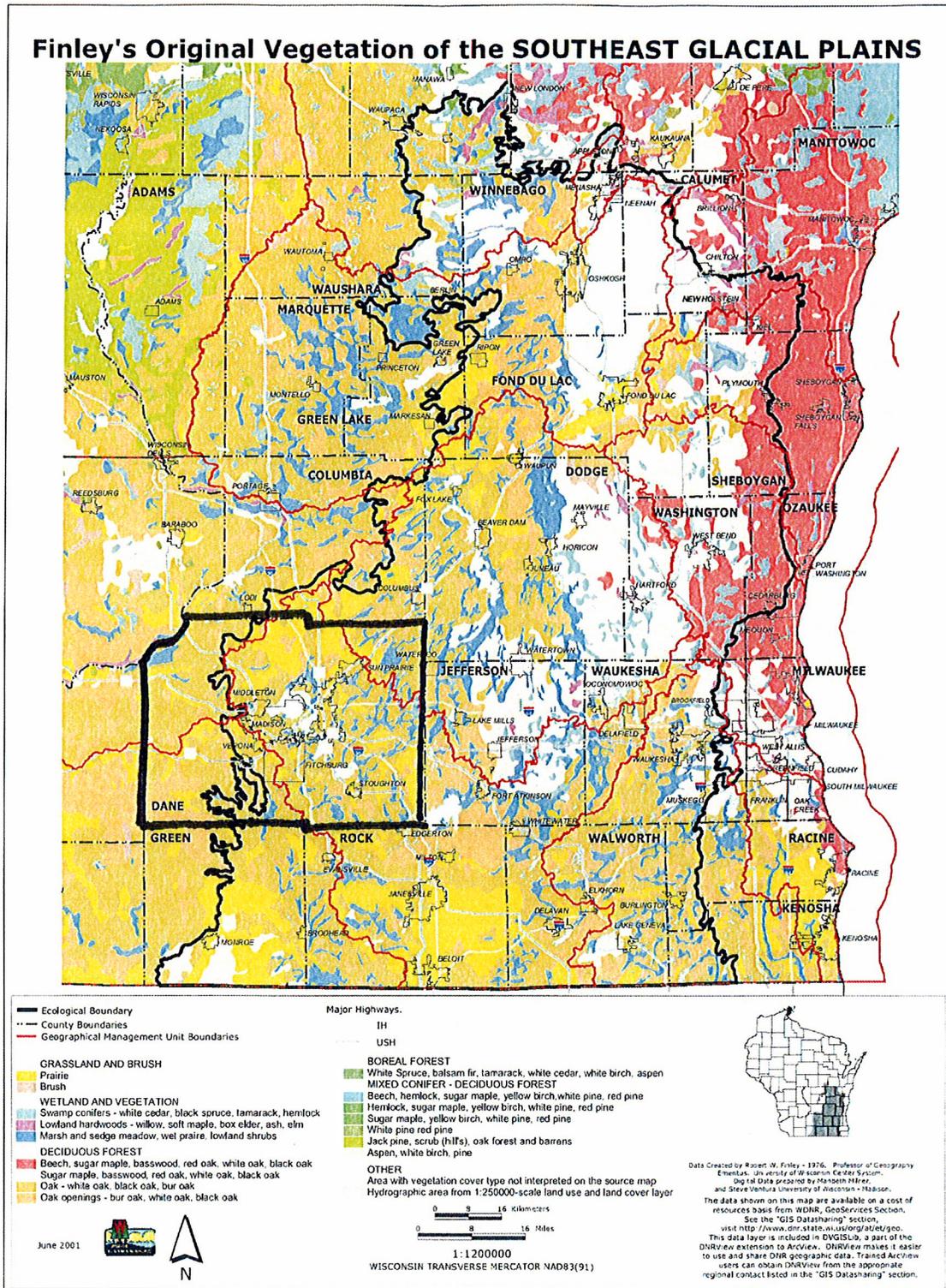
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B4 – Finley's Original Vegetation of the Southeast Glacial Plains



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Southeast Glacial Plains Landscape

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

The following species are listed according to their probability of occurring in the **Southeast Glacial Plains** Ecological Landscape, based on the findings in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. Please see the Wildlife Action Plan, [Chapter 2.4 \[PDF 27KB\]](#) to learn how this information was developed.

Scores: 3 = "Significantly Associated," 2 = "Moderately Associated", and 1 = "Minimally Associated."

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Birds		Score
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	3
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	3
American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	3
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	3

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<u>Inventory</u>	<u>Black Tern</u>	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	3
<u>Working List</u>	<u>Black-billed Cuckoo</u>	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	3
	<u>Blue-winged Teal</u>	<i>Anas discors</i>	3
	<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	3
	<u>Bobolink</u>	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	3
	<u>Brown Thrasher</u>	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	3
	<u>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</u>	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	3
	<u>Canvasback</u>	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	3
	<u>Cerulean Warbler</u>	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	3
	<u>Common Tern</u>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	3
	<u>Dickcissel</u>	<i>Spiza americana</i>	3
	<u>Dunlin</u>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	3
	<u>Eastern Meadowlark</u>	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	3
	<u>Field Sparrow</u>	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	3
	<u>Forster's Tern</u>	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	3
	<u>Grasshopper Sparrow</u>	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	3
	<u>Henslow's Sparrow</u>	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	3
	<u>Hooded Warbler</u>	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	3
	<u>Hudsonian Godwit</u>	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	3
	<u>King Rail</u>	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	3
	<u>Least Flycatcher</u>	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	3
	<u>Lesser Scaup</u>	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	3
	<u>Louisiana Waterthrush</u>	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	3
	<u>Northern Harrier</u>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	3
	<u>Prothonotary Warbler</u>	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	3
	<u>Redhead</u>	<i>Aythya americana</i>	3
	<u>Red-headed Woodpecker</u>	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	3
	<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	3
	<u>Rusty Blackbird</u>	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	3
	<u>Short-billed Dowitcher</u>	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	3
	<u>Short-eared Owl</u>	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	3
	<u>Vesper Sparrow</u>	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	3

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<u>Western Meadowlark</u>	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	3
<u>Whooping Crane</u>	<i>Grus americana</i>	3
<u>Willow Flycatcher</u>	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	3
<u>Wood Thrush</u>	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	3
<u>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</u>	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	3
<u>Bell's Vireo</u>	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	2
<u>Golden-winged Warbler</u>	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	2
<u>Lark Sparrow</u>	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	2
<u>Loggerhead Shrike</u>	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	2
<u>Marbled Godwit</u>	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	2
<u>Northern Bobwhite</u>	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	2
<u>Red-shouldered Hawk</u>	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	2
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2
<u>Solitary Sandpiper</u>	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	2
<u>Upland Sandpiper</u>	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	2
<u>Veery</u>	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	2
<u>Whimbrel</u>	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	2
<u>Whip-poor-will</u>	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	2
<u>Wilson's Phalarope</u>	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	2
<u>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</u>	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	2
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler</u>	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	2
<u>American Black Duck</u>	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	1
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	1
<u>Barn Owl</u>	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	1
<u>Canada Warbler</u>	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	1
<u>Horned Grebe</u>	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	1
<u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	1
<u>Osprey</u>	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1
<u>Red Crossbill</u>	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	1
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	1

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Fish		Score
<u>Gravel Chub</u>	<i>Erimystax x-punctatus</i>	3
<u>Greater Redhorse</u>	<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>	3
<u>Lake Chubsucker</u>	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>	3
<u>Lake Sturgeon</u>	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	3
<u>Least Darter</u>	<i>Etheostoma microperca</i>	3
<u>Longear Sunfish</u>	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>	3
<u>Ozark Minnow</u>	<i>Notropis nubilus</i>	3
<u>Redfin Shiner</u>	<i>Lythrurus umbratilis</i>	3
<u>Redside Dace</u>	<i>Clinostomus elongatus</i>	3
<u>River Redhorse</u>	<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>	3
<u>Slender Madtom</u>	<i>Noturus exilis</i>	3
<u>Starhead Topminnow</u>	<i>Fundulus dispar</i>	3
<u>Banded Killifish</u>	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	2
<u>Black Buffalo</u>	<i>Ictiobus niger</i>	2
<u>Pugnose Shiner</u>	<i>Notropis anogenus</i>	2
<u>Western Sand Darter</u>	<i>Ammocrypta clara</i>	2
<u>American Eel</u>	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	1

Reptiles and Amphibians		Score
<u>Blanding's Turtle</u>	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	3
<u>Butler's Garter Snake</u>	<i>Thamnophis butleri</i>	3
<u>Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake</u>	<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	3
<u>Four-toed Salamander</u>	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	3
<u>Northern Ribbon Snake</u>	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	3
<u>Ornate Box Turtle</u>	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>	3
<u>Pickerel Frog</u>	<i>Rana palustris</i>	3
<u>Queen Snake</u>	<i>Regina septemvittata</i>	3
<u>Mudpuppy</u>	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	2

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<u>Yellow-bellied Racer</u>	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	2
<u>Northern Cricket Frog</u>	<i>Acris crepitans</i>	1
<u>Western Ribbon Snake</u>	<i>Thamnophis proximus</i>	1

Mammals		Score
<u>Franklin's Ground Squirrel</u>	<i>Spermophilus franklinii</i>	3
<u>Eastern Red Bat</u>	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	2
<u>Hoary Bat</u>	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	2
<u>Northern Long-eared Bat</u>	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	2
<u>Prairie Vole</u>	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	2
<u>Silver-haired Bat</u>	<i>Lasiorycteris noctivagans</i>	2
<u>Woodland Vole</u>	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>	2
<u>Water Shrew</u>	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	1

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TOKEN CREEK CONSERVANCY HISTORY



~ Prepared by Alan J Harvey, Attorney at Law

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HISTORY OF THE AREA

The Token Creek area figures prominently in the rich historical tapestry of Dane County. Drawn by the area's abundant natural resources, prominent geographic features, and strategic location, Token Creek first attracted various Native American peoples, to be followed later by white settlers in the mid-1800's. This Chapter provides an overview of the Token Creek area's Native American people, settlement and modern eras; as well as the historically significant cemetery and the dam failure that resulted in the restoration of the creek.

THE NATIVE AMERICANS

For countless generations, Native Americans survived by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants, with small transient bands traveling to places where reliable sources of food and fresh water could be found in abundance. Token Creek was undoubtedly such an area given its rich natural resources.

Between approximately 600 AD and 900 AD, a new and distinctive culture that archaeologists have labeled the "Effigy Mound Culture" arose in Wisconsin. As Native American people became less nomadic with the introduction of corn horticulture, the bow and arrow, and more permanent settlements, some Native American bands began constructing effigy mounds.

Effigy mounds are large man-made earthen mounds. Some effigy mounds are abstract, such as long linear embankments or a series of embankments with a dome-type feature. Other effigy mounds resemble birds or animals, such as deer or bears. Archaeologists and Native Americans believe that some effigy mounds were meant to symbolize spirits of the earth – sky, earth and water.

Early histories of the white settlement period record that there were several effigy mounds in the Token Creek area, although it was sadly noted that these were already becoming obscured by agricultural practices. The location of these effigy mounds is now lost to history. Excellent examples of effigy mounds, however, exist in the Madison Four Lakes and Sun Prairie areas, which are likely similar in design and size to those that once were visible in Token Creek.

While it is unknown whether any permanent Native American settlements existed in the Token Creek area, numerous accounts exist from the early settlement period of large bands of Winnebago Indians walking on the old trails in the area. It is likely that the area had earlier been popular with members of the Sac and Fox tribes.

The most credible theory on the naming of Token Creek is that the area was named after the minor chief Tokunee who sometimes frequented the area at the time of the arrival of the first white settlers. Early maps assign the names “Token” or “Tokunee” to the area.

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT ERA

America’s steady tide of western migration reached southern Wisconsin by the 1830’s – and the Token Creek area would be changed forever. William Lawrence was the first white settler in 1837 what would become the Town of Windsor. In 1841, George Spaulding became the first white settler in the Token Creek area.

The first territorial election in the Town of Windsor was held in 1847 at Charles Lawrence’s Prairie House Inn in Token Creek (3812 State Hwy 19), the year prior to Wisconsin achieving statehood in 1848. Local lore is that General Zachary Taylor, a future U.S. president, and fellow officer Jefferson Davis, the future Confederacy’s first and only president, stayed at Prairie House Inn while passing through during the Black Hawk War.

Completed in 1844, the important Fort Winnebago Road from Madison to Portage passed through Token Creek. Present day Portage Road, which bisects the Token Creek Conservancy, is located on the route of the old Fort Winnebago Road. *Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Towns* (Wm. J. Park and Company, 1877) describes Token Creek’s landmark Big Hill as “the lighthouse of the prairie, by which travelers were able to steer their course when crossing open country.”

Token Creek’s fortuitous location on the Fort Winnebago Road in the shadow of the Big Hill sped its development as a crossroads hamlet. A Token Creek post office was established in 1847, and for a number of years was the only post office between Madison and Wyocena; it was discontinued in 1902. During the post-settlement era, Token Creek had a school, Congregational Church and several general stores serving the area. Until destroyed by fire in 1881, the Token Creek Tavern was the area’s social center. A photograph exists showing fiddler Marcus Wheeler, father of renowned poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox (“Laugh and the world laughs with you ...”) standing on the roof of the Tavern with fellow boisterous patrons.

The War Between the States (1861-65) affected Americans profoundly, perhaps unequaled by any other conflict – and Token Creek was no exception. While Token Creek did not raise its own local company of troops, as was sometimes the case in other communities, many area men answered the call of duty. Local men preparing to fight for the Union cause were known to drill and practice musketry in the vicinity of the Big Hill.

A dam was erected in 1860 to impound the waters of Token Creek and provide a steady source of water to fuel grist mills. This created a 44 acre millpond. In the era before the availability of electricity and fossil fuels, harnessing water power was a widespread practice among ingenious early settlers. Where the water quantity and velocity were inadequate or too seasonal, a dam would be constructed to create a millpond. A millpond is an artificial pond produced by damming a stream to create an impoundment of water that could be steadily released to power a water wheel. The turning waterwheel would provide the power to rotate a massive circular stone paired with a stationary stone inside the mill. Wheat, oats, corn and other grains would be placed between the two millstones and ground, producing flour and livestock feed.

Three grist mills were constructed in the area, although only two were successful. One mill was erected near the large springs at the east end of the millpond but apparently was a failure. It was recorded that this mill “was badly constructed” and that “new wheels and gearing had to be put in and the dam thoroughly repaired, making it an expensive investment to the then owner.

In 1849, a second area grist mill was constructed west of Token Creek in Section 5 in the Town of Burke about one hundred yards west of current U.S. Hwy 51. This mill operated for several decades and was described in early area histories as a “great convenience to the surrounding country.”

An improved dam and a third grist mill were constructed at the western edge of the millpond in 1861. This successful mill, called the Token Roller Mill, operated from 1861 until 1945. The mill building stood until it was razed in 1974; the mill site was what is today the Old Mill Site Area entrance to the Conservancy on the east side of Portage Road adjacent to the cemetery. It was this mill, and particularly the creation of its associated large millpond, that defined Token Creek for many years.

A small dam structure on the Pederson Branch was also constructed at a later period for the purpose of carp and trout rearing.

The millpond was used for fishing and swimming. In the winter, ice was harvested to stock ice houses of area residents.

Establishing a school was always a priority in pioneer communities. A crude log school was first erected near the northeast side of the Big Hill. Construction of a new school was authorized in 1852 but the replacement structure was not completed for many years. That school, which existed until 1966, was located on the parcel directly west of and adjacent to the Token Creek Cemetery; a private home now exists on the land.

THE MODERN ERA

Suburban growth reached the Token Creek watershed during the 1960's. The city of Sun Prairie to the east began to experience substantial growth, which created an increase in stormwater runoff to the watershed. Neighborhoods to the west in Windsor and DeForest expanded soon thereafter. Urbanization and soil erosion from area development and farms resulted in siltation of the Token Creek millpond; once a lake in which people swam and fished for northern pike, bass and panfish, the millpond had become shallow and supported mainly carp and bullhead fish.

In the 1970's several large new residential plats were created in the Token Creek area: the Terrace Park, Millstone, Raintree and Wynbrooke neighborhoods. The once sleepy area suddenly had hundreds of new residents and significant development pressure. In response to citizens' concerns over unplanned growth, the Town of Windsor, in 1979, adopted its first land use plan and related ordinances governing platting.

The surrounding area in general experienced rapid growth as the populations of the communities of DeForest, Windsor and Sun Prairie continued to grow, with the cold baseflow of groundwater to Token Creek impacted by such development. These changes began to heighten public awareness that the Token Creek watershed's future could not be taken for granted.

The idea of starting a Token Creek watershed protection project began in 1990 with the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation ("Foundation"). The Foundation Board determined that the State of Wisconsin's new Stewardship Fund stream bank easement funding program presented fresh preservation opportunities. Foundation Board member John Hutchinson was charged with identifying the streams in Dane county which would benefit most from this fund.

After requisite research, the Foundation decided to apply for a program grant for the Token Creek watershed.

The Foundation enlisted Barbara Loftus as its first liaison with Token Creek area residents. Ms. Loftus and Foundation Board members started contacting local residents and held small public meetings in residents' homes to solicit input on possible Token Creek conservation efforts. The Foundation and Bob and Faith Thomas entered into the first conservation easement protecting a tributary south of State Highway 19.

TOKEN CREEK CEMETERY

The historic Token Creek Cemetery has been incorporated into the Token Creek Conservancy. The cemetery's quiet setting on a small rise to the north of the Old Mill Site Management Area western entrance to the Conservancy on Portage Road is very evocative and moving, a small corner of the past that has changed little in the past 160 years. The grave stones mark the final resting place of many of the Token Creek area's early families. (Combs, Spalding, Spaulding, Douglas, Rasdall, Aus, Buttolph, Lawrence, Goodrich, Butterfield) In all, 137 people are known to be buried in Token Creek Cemetery.

The harsh conditions of the settlement years meant that having a cemetery was as necessary as establishing a school. The exact origins of the Token Creek Cemetery are unknown but Token Creek historian Mae Bork has written that the cemetery was already in existence when one pioneer family arrived in 1849. The cemetery site officially became Token Creek Cemetery on June 10, 1854.

For many years, the cemetery was affiliated with and maintained by a cemetery association linked with the nearby Token Creek Congregational Church. When that congregation dwindled in size and eventually disbanded in the early 1900s, the cemetery lost its guardian. Family members of the deceased who were active with the cemetery association also became fewer in number, and eventually the cemetery association ceased to exist as a functioning entity.

In the following decades, nature gradually reclaimed the site, with brush and untrimmed lilacs choking out the sunlight; vandals desecrated many of the grave markers. Some local residents tried to do maintenance work at the cemetery, usually on the lots of family members, but the task was too overwhelming and such efforts gradually ceased.

One citizen then stepped forward and made a difference, not only for the Token Creek Cemetery but for similar abandoned cemeteries throughout Wisconsin. This citizen was Edith Morrison, a dignified resident of Morrisonville who was a long-time Town of Windsor Clerk.

Edith Morrison's grandfather had fought in the Civil War and her two sons were World War II veterans. She believed that all deceased veterans should be honored on Memorial Day

and for over fifty years she personally placed flowers and flags on the graves of veterans in Token Creek Cemetery and other Windsor cemeteries. The Capital Times reported in 1956 that Morrison “had to walk through heavy underbrush that encroached in the quiet little cemetery as she carried out her mission of remembrance of the veterans.”

Morrison waged a quiet but determined campaign with the Wisconsin Legislature to enact a state law requiring the local government in which an abandoned cemetery is located to maintain the site. Perhaps a bit shamed by the effective pleas of the widowed Mrs. Morrison and knowing that many such sad and abandoned cemeteries existed throughout the state, the Legislature enacted a law requiring the maintenance of abandoned cemeteries by local governments.

The Town of Windsor became responsible for the Token Creek Cemetery in 1954, and maintenance progressed over the years. In a very real way, the plight of Token Creek Cemetery was the catalyst that preserved countless abandoned cemeteries throughout Wisconsin.

In recent years, the Town of Windsor has restored and reinforced many of the deteriorating grave markers to aid in their preservation. A new flag pole and monument listing the names of all 137 people buried in the Cemetery was dedicated on Veterans Days, November 11, 2000. The site continues to be used for remembrance ceremonies by veterans organizations on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Veterans Day.

Boy Scout Troop 155 (Windsor) and Troop 333 (Sun Prairie) have completed several projects at the Cemetery and adjacent Old Mill Site Management Area, including path construction, cemetery rehabilitation, erection of a flag pole, and building/placing Leopold-style benches.

The graves of ten veterans of four, possibly five, American wars are a particularly interesting feature of Token Creek Cemetery, representing the War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, and possibly the Revolutionary War. Seven veterans of the Civil War alone are buried here, all of whom died while in service.

The reference in old burial records to the internment of a man simply recorded as “Winslow” has attracted considerable interest over the years given that no Winslow family resided in the Token Creek area at that time. Early histories of the area state that it was thought that Winslow was possibly a veteran of the Revolutionary War. The Daughters of the American Revolution organization was consulted and their records indicated that an Orland

Winslow had indeed served in the Revolutionary War. Could this be the same Winslow who possibly died while traveling through the area on the Fort Winnebago Road, and Token Creek Cemetery became his final resting place?

When research was done in preparation for the casting of the new cemetery monument in 2000, it was concluded that it was more likely that the Winslow references were to a John Winslow, a veteran of the War of 1812. It is the name of John Winslow, and his War of 1812 service, that is inscribed on the monument.

Luke Butterfield, another War of 1812 veteran interned in Token Creek Cemetery, was born in 1786 and died on June 26, 1861. Butterfield was a resident of the area and had at one time been an operator of the grist mill west of Token Creek in the Town of Burke.

THE MILLPOND DAM FAILURE CRISIS AND STREAM RESTORATION

In 1992, due to age, deterioration, and vandalism, the dam impounding the Token Creek millpond began to fail. An inspection by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 1994 confirmed the steady structural failure of the dilapidated dam and ordered that the dam either be replaced in conformity with modern dam standards or be removed.

A group of concerned citizens had been working on ways to protect the Token Creek. This effort was coordinated by John Hutchinson for the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation who held a series of conferences to help facilitate Token Creek conservation efforts. These conferences were attended by stakeholders and included area farmers, developers, local officials, environmentalists, and community neighbors to discuss and find common ground on the issues facing the watershed and the millpond. Almost one hundred citizens gathered at a March 13, 1995 conference to identify their suggestions, differences and areas of agreement how best to protect the watershed.

At the same time, some of the land owners surrounding the millpond wanted to save the pond and repair the dam. They formed a group called the Token Creek Inland Lake and Protection Rehabilitation District (District). This group would purchase the dam site and repair the dam. They coordinated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and received the appropriate permits from the DNR for dam reconstruction. In May 1996, this group took ownership of the dam site and began the plans to repair the dam in compliance with DNR standards.

Meanwhile, the DNR had been conducting extensive surveys of the area. The failure of the dam and subsequent draining of the pond had exposed the underlying watershed, a unique cold water stream and large amounts of springs producing 50 degree water. It was determined that reconstructing the dam would adversely affect the trout potential and water quality of the area. Therefore, the DNR would no longer approve any dam reconstruction plans. In June 1996, the DNR presented an alternative plan to the District that would involve the dam removal and a wetland restoration project instead.

These new plans to remove the dam and drain the millpond created a whole new set of complex ownership, governance, legal and fiscal issues. After complicated and sometimes contentious negotiations, a solution was agreed upon where the Town of Windsor would purchase and assume ownership of the drained millpond and dam site from the Lake District

and willing property owners. These sensitive lands would become the Token Creek Conservancy and would be publicly owned and protected.

Soon after, the Token Creek Watershed Association was formed in 1996 to provide grassroots citizen support for the protection and property management of the newly acquired Windsor conservancy lands and the greater twenty-seven square mile, five jurisdiction Token Creek Watershed (Towns of Windsor, Bristol, and Burke; City of Sun Prairie; Village of DeForest).

A March 15, 1997 *Wisconsin State Journal* article covering a later conference observed that “the best way to protect water quality along Token Creek was to put watershed welfare in the hands of area residents.” Meeting co-facilitator Bert Stitt said, “My feeling is that the environmental issues facing this state are so large, contentious and consequential that we must find a way of engaging those people who live in the environment affected in some kind of productive, useful discussion...I really see this event today as some kind of landmark in environmental issues.”

In 1998, the Town of Windsor worked with the Token Creek Watershed Association, the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, the Token Creek Inland Lake and Protection Rehabilitation District, the Wisconsin DNR, Dane County, Trout Unlimited, the Dane County Conservation League and obtained a 1 million dollar Lake Protection District grant to be used for the acquisition of this property. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer commented on the years of efforts culminating this historic event: “This was a lot of risk taking. I knew it was going to be a very, very difficult project...I had some real skepticism in the back of my mind...This is a very, very special project. The resourcing benefits are tremendous...The freeing-up of those springs – 4,000 gallons of 50 degree water – which is the key ingredient to re-establishing five to seven miles of very valuable trout stream, next to the second-largest population base in the state, close to where people can really access a terrific resource.” Secretary Meyer emphasized that Windsor’s Token Creek experience would be used as a statewide model to manage similar projects to bring people together. In closing, Secretary Meyer commented on the end of the millpond era, saying “How many generations never had the opportunity to take advantage of this resource now being freed up?” (*Sun Prairie Star*, 1998)

The Town of Windsor separately purchased the three acre parcel on Portage Road (Old Mill Site Management Area) providing western access to the new Conservancy lands. This parcel consists of the site of the old Token Roller Mill and its millraces to the west of the millpond basin, and access to the historic Token Creek Cemetery. The Cemetery had earlier come under Windsor ownership due to a state law requiring such public ownership of abandoned cemeteries. The millraces were man-made canals through which water impounded in the millpond would rapidly flow, driving the mill wheel that powered the grinding wheel machinery within the mill building.

In 2002, the Windsor Town Board established a seven-member Token Creek Conservancy Committee to provide an ongoing governmental structure to administer and perform future planning for the Conservancy. This Committee was composed of seven (7) members representing the following; one representative of the Windsor Parks Commission, one representative of the Token Creek Watershed, one representative of the DeForest Area School District, one representative of the Windsor Town Board, one representative of the Windsor Staff, and two (2) citizen representatives with a demonstrated interest in the Conservancy.

Efforts continued by the Town of Windsor and its partners to expand the new Token Creek Conservancy to include adjacent unique lands. Elmer and Edna Culver were long-time owners of a particularly critical 60 acre parcel to the north of the former millpond that contained the area's largest springs. The Culver family had practiced a strong conservation ethic during their stewardship of this land, putting in walking trails and constructing four ponds that were used for trout rearing. The Culver estate heirs agreed to sell this invaluable parcel to the Town of Windsor, securing permanent protection for the sensitive springs and habitat areas. This area, with access from Egge Road is now the Token Creek Conservancy's Culver and Wetland Management Areas.

In the late 1990's, Cecil and Bernadine Smith donated to the Town of Windsor ownership of approximately 35 acres of the Big Hill, a remarkable public-spirited contribution (Bernadine Smith was a Token Creek native and former educator). The gift was unique in that the donation included an easement giving the DeForest Area School District a permanent right-of-use easement to utilize the Windsor parcel as a "living classroom".

Through this successful Town of Windsor-DeForest Area School District partnership, school children can discover the oak savannahs, thick forests, four small ponds, wildflowers, wildlife and lofty vistas that make up the wonderful Big Hill Management Area property. The DeForest Area School District has established its own internal Big Hill Committee to coordinate school field trips and land management and restoration projects at Big Hill, in cooperation with the TCCC. The Big Hill has received State of Wisconsin School Forest designation. As new generations of children become ever more removed from nature, the Token Creek Conservancy's Big Hill Management Area provides an exceptional opportunity for children to get in touch with and interact with the natural world.

Adding to the success of the Smith's Big Hill donation, local philanthropists Fred and Helen Chase generously donated \$100,000 to the DeForest Area School District to enable the purchase of a 27-acre farmland parcel adjacent to the Big Hill parcel. While this parcel is owned by the School District and is not formally a part of Windsor's Token Creek Conservancy, its public ownership compliments the Big Hill parcel.

Before widespread appreciation of the importance of the diverse physical and habitat features in a healthy eco-system, the Big Hill was often seen as another resource to be used, and sometimes abused. A quarry operation removed aggregate from the Big Hill's south side, and the Big Hill and adjacent lands were farmed and/or grazed. Area residents of Scandinavian ancestry even skied on the Big Hill, gliding down the semi-open northeastern face.

In the new millennium, Token Creek Conservancy expanded again in 2007 with Windsor's purchase of an addition 18 acre parcel. This parcel, primarily lowlands, is on the west side of Portage Road and provides a physical link between the former millpond, Old Mill Site Management Area, and Culver Management Area acreage to the east and the Big Hill to the west.

Other smaller, but important, parcels have been incorporated into the Token Creek Conservancy – the Raintree Conservancy Management Area and outlot (4.4 acres with picturesque ponds) and Heatherstone outlots (4.4 acres). The Revere Trails conservancy lands, comprising over 32 acres to the west of the Big Hill Management Area, are being dedicated to Windsor as part of the approval of the new Revere Trails residential development and will be merged into the Token Creek Conservancy in the near future.

STREAM RESTORATION

An important component of restoration work in Token Creek Conservancy is Windsor's collaborative relationships with other governmental agencies, such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, partner agencies which will be performing the major restoration work.

In November 19, 1997 memorandum (paraphrased as follows), WisDNR officials outlined the anticipated restoration stages for the former millpond area:

Removal of the Dam Structure: The dam structure will be removed by WisDNR and its partners. The dam will be removed once WisDNR has stabilized the new stream channel and existing sediments to the fullest practical extent. The dam structure will be modified to control water levels and sediment transport by the installation of temporary water level control structures. A hydraulic dredge will be used to remove sediment from the former stream channel. Spoil material will be deposited in an acceptable site controlled by WisDNR and Windsor.

Re-Creation of the Stream Channel: WisDNR notes that the present stream channel has been inundated with sediment accumulated in the water impoundment since the stream was dammed in 1860. WisDNR will use probes and/or acoustic equipment to determine the original channel location, groundwater flow patterns and recharge areas. The original stream channel will be reestablished where possible and practical. Attention will be given to creating trout habitat and instream cover. In addition, wherever possible spawning habitat will be reestablished.

Reestablishment of a Wild Population of Native Brook Trout: Once the necessary habitat improvements have been made, a naturally reproducing population of wild brook trout will be established. When the project is complete, five to seven miles of stream will be established as a Class 1 brook trout fishery. The initial brook trout stockings will be from eggs obtained from wild brook trout native to streams in Southwestern Wisconsin.

Pond Creation and Wetland Restoration: As the old millpond is drawn down, the old lake bed has reverted to a diverse wetland. Due to numerous springs in and along the old reservoir bed, WisDNR anticipates that the existing wetland will be largely unimpaired by removal of the remaining dam structure, but with about seven feet of head on the old dam structure remaining. After the dam has been removed, it is possible that the ground water table may drop locally affecting what can be done with wetland restoration and pond construction. WisDNR intends to establish a series of open water areas that can be seen by riparian landowners, improving the value of the wetland for waterfowl and other wildlife species. While WisDNR views these ponds as being valuable to wildlife, WisDNR would take great care to locate and design them so that the ponds would be isolated from the restored stream system. In order to ensure that the new ponds remain isolated, it may be necessary to create a low berm (one to two feet) around some of the ponds. Current plans are that it would be practical to establish about six of these pond areas. The ponds or shallow wetland scrapes would be roughly two to six acres in size and would vary in depth from one to six feet. Ponds would be created after the dam is removed and the wetland complex has stabilized.

Public Access: This area will be largely a wetland conservancy area with a trout stream running through it. The public would be drawn to the area for fishing and wildlife observation. Access to the property could be through the publicly-owned area along the southwest portion of the old lake bed. Although it would be desirable to have a primitive at-grade trail system to enhance fishing access and wildlife observation, such trail may not be possible due to the presence of the current wetland around the stream.

The original plan was for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be the lead agency regarding restoration. In 1998, the Army Corps of Engineers earmarked up to \$5 million for Token Creek dam removal, dredging and channel restoration. However, international military commitments in subsequent years caused a shift in agency resources, and, as a result, the Army Corps of Engineers determined, in February, 2004, that it would be unable to proceed with this project.

Restoration work was subsequently assumed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Given WisDNR's more limited resources, work in the Token Creek Conservancy has proceeded forward but pursuant to a slower schedule than originally envisioned under the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers option. One benefit that has been gained by these delays is that the creek has had additional time in which to gradually re-establish its natural channels. In addition to actual site work, experts, with the WisDNR have provided valuable professional assistance to the Town of Windsor, its Token Creek Conservancy Committee, and the Token Creek Watershed Association.

WisDNR work that has been accomplished to date is the removal of the millpond dam, breaching of the four small fish-rearing ponds in the Culver Hill Management Area of the Conservancy, and, most significantly, silt removal and partial channel restoration of the Token Creek stream in the former millpond basin. The latter project has resulted in the removal of large quantities of silt from the creek, with the head cut of the stream progressively being moved back from the west to the east. Silt removal is a time-consuming process, with excavated material needing to be stored on-site to allow large quantities of water to leach out from the soil; after sufficient dewatering has occurred, the surplus soil is then removed from the storage area. WisDNR is planning additional stream restoration work.

SOURCES

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- *The Embers Glow – A History of Early Windsor*, Alan Harvey (unpublished manuscript)
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- *Diverse Group Meets on Problems of Token Creek*, Wisconsin State Journal (March 15, 1997)
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- *Town Restoring Waterways to Help Trout*, Wisconsin State Journal (July 4, 2004)
- *Windsor Protects its Water*, Wisconsin State Journal (April 7, 2007)

APPENDIX

Token Creek Restoration Partners

The Following are the units of government, government agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals recognized by the Dane County Soil and Water Conservation Department as major stakeholder contributors to the ongoing Token Creek Restoration Project:

- Town of Windsor
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Dane County
- Trout Unlimited
 - Southern WI Chapter
 - Green Bay WI Chapter
 - Oakbrook IL Chapter
- Natural Heritage Land Trust
- Token Creek Watershed Association
- Dane County Conservation League
- Madison Fishing Expo
- Wisconsin River Alliance
- Research Products, Inc.
- John and Judith Hutchinson
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Partnership for Wildlife
- Wildlife Forever
- DeForest School District
- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America

APPENDIX C





November 7, 2011

NOV - 8 2011

Town of Windsor
4084 Mueller Road
Deforest, WI 53532

To Whom It May Concern:

It was a pleasure to meet with Amy and Judith at the Big Hill and Token Creek Conservancy on October 26. We had an opportunity to walk both properties to look at forest management related issues and determine what should the next steps be in moving forward in efforts to control the invasive exotic species as well as sustainable forest management opportunities on the Big Hill.

The first site that we visited was the Big Hill. It is obvious that this property would be improved dramatically by making a considerable effort to control the buckthorn and honeysuckle. These species have spread throughout the property and will only continue to do so if left untreated. The northern portion of the property or stand 1 in the management plan was checked for stocking during the site visit. At the time that the management plan was prepared the basal area of this stand was 114 sq. ft. per acre. Plots taken during this recent site visit estimated the basal area to be approximately 130 sq. ft. per acre. Given a basal area of 130 sq. ft. the stand is overstocked and should be thinned or harvested in some manner. During the site visit it was suggested that a thinning be implemented to reduce the basal area to between 80 and 90 sq. ft. per acre. This would be done by removing poor quality and high risk trees while leaving the best quality and healthiest trees possible. In addition to improving the overall quality and health of the woods the income from the harvest could be used to offset the cost of controlling the invasive exotic species that are present across the entire property.

After spending a significant portion of the morning at the Big Hill we went to the Token Creek Conservancy. There we also spent a significant amount of time inspecting each stand to discuss impacts from the recent harvest as well as determining where and how to control invasive exotic species and prioritization of control. There were 3 areas in particular where control efforts seemed most necessary. Each of the 3 areas were determined to have significant amounts of buckthorn or honeysuckle that should be controlled. The first of those areas was to the east of the parking area or stand 4 in the forest management plan. This stand was the stand that was essentially clearcut because of the fact that it was dominated almost entirely by Siberian elm, which is an invasive exotic species. This stand had very dense buckthorn and honeysuckle and the elm is resprouting. It is suggested that the buckthorn, honeysuckle and elm all be chemically treated in this stand. The next area of concern regarding invasives was a very small portion of stand 3 that is located directly adjacent to the hiking trail. Stand 3 was the red pine plantation that had also been clearcut. This area has very dense honeysuckle. The majority of this stand was regenerating very well to black cherry. It was also noted while in this stand that the debris on the ground seemed rather excessive. The debris that was there was from red pine that had died and fallen over prior to the harvest. It was noted that members of the committee were under the impression that all of this debris was going to be cleaned up but that was not actually the case. With any timber sale we encourage contractors to leave as much downed material as possible to allow for nutrients to be returned to the soil. Coarse woody debris also provides excellent habitat for a variety of critters including insects, reptiles and amphibians. It was never intended for any of this debris to be cleared from the site in conjunction with the harvest. Most of the debris was heavily decayed and not usable material. In some instances if downed material is hardwood that has not decayed it can still be utilized for firewood, but with softwood such as the red pine that was present there is no commercial use for this material so it is left in the woods for the reasons listed previously. I apologized for having given committee members any indication that this material was to have been removed by the contractor. I thought that had been explained to the members prior to the harvest, but apparently it was unclear to many. The third and final area of concern regarding the invasives was in the far southeastern portion of stand 1. This area was found to have a significant amount of buckthorn.

In the forest management plan for the Token Creek Conservancy control of invasive exotic species was recommended for all stands in 2008 and 2009. It was noted that a considerable amount of work has been done in stand 5 since the harvest, but little has been done elsewhere to control buckthorn or honeysuckle. With these three areas having been identified it is strongly recommended that control efforts be targeted in each of these three areas of the property. These areas are very limited in size so I am confident that this will be manageable for the Township to effectively control the invasive exotic species and further carry through with the efforts to improve and restore the native communities on the property.

If you still have questions regarding specific control methods for buckthorn, honeysuckle or Siberian elm please feel free to give me a call. We did also have an opportunity to look at the garlic mustard that has shown up on the property. It is impossible to say if the garlic mustard was actually introduced to the property by the harvesting equipment or not, but it is certainly a possibility. Dame's rocket which is another invasive exotic species very similar to garlic mustard was found to be throughout the property. Regardless of how the garlic mustard was introduced to the property it is now there. I would suggest trying to get a handle on this by a combination of pulling and spraying. It is recommended that this be done in both the spring and fall each year in an effort to get plants before they produce seed since they are a biennial and produce seeds only after the second year of growth. You should be able to control the garlic mustard by use of your own personnel or volunteers. It is not recommended that this be done by a professional because you should be concentrating professional paid assistance for control of the buckthorn, honeysuckle and Siberian elm.

As for the impacts of the harvest at the Token Creek Conservancy I still feel that from a forest management perspective the harvest was a success. The harvest accomplished all of the goals and objectives that were explained and agreed upon in the forest management plan. The forest is well on it's way to being restored, but there is still important work that needs to be carried out. The next critical step in the restoration process is to get control of the invasives.

If you have additional questions or would like assistance with establishment of a timber harvest at the Big Hill please feel free to give me a call. My telephone number at the Horicon DNR Service Center is (920) 387-7884.

Sincerely,



Randy Stampfl
WDNR Forester