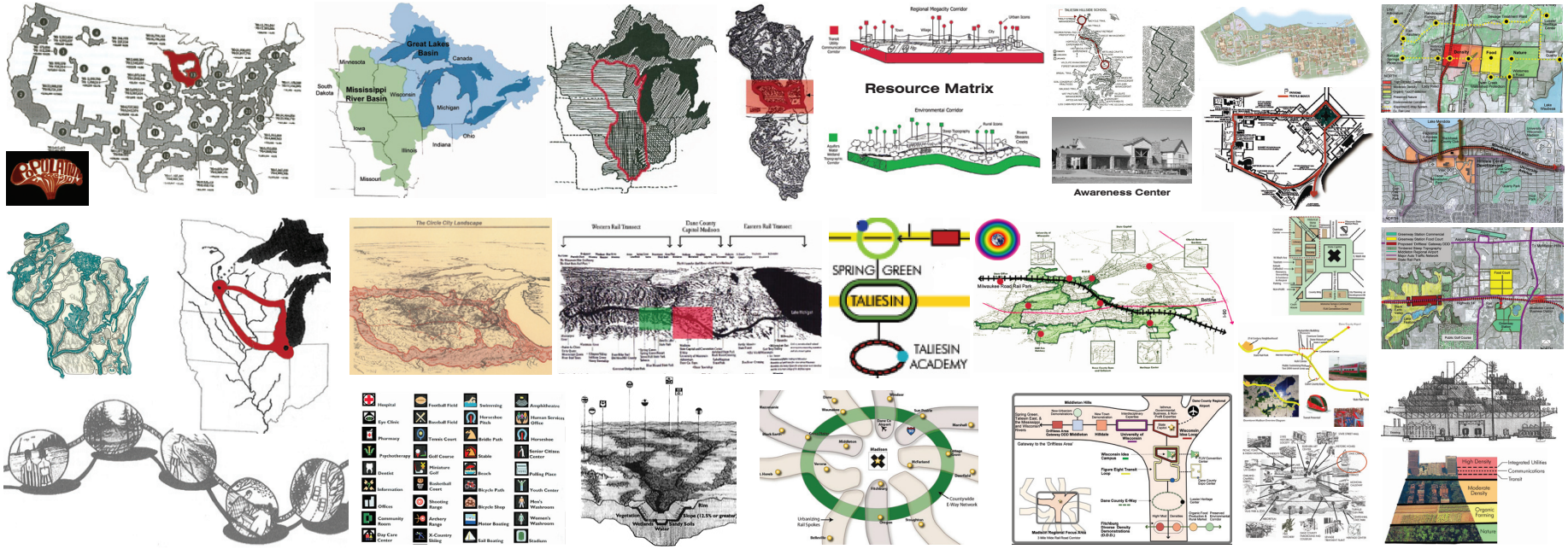
# REGIONAL DESIGN

## CREATING FRAMEWORKS

For

QUALITY OF LIFE, PEACE, & SURVIVAL




Midwest Prototype: Prof. Phil Lewis, Landscape Architect, Madison, WI / phlewis@wisc.edu/ Fax (608) 238-7219

Contibutions to this regional design powerpoint presentation document:

Prof. Phil Lewis, Director & Editor
Marshall Erdman Academy & Phil Lewis Studio
Elizabeth Lewis, Botanist, Academy Treasurer, & Editorial Consultant
Lisa Lewis, Consulting Landscape Architect
Eileen Kelley, Visiting City Planner, City of Middleton
Landscape Architecture Interns:
Tracy Koffarnus
Jared A. Vincent

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Prof. Phil Lewis
Phone/ Fax: (608) 238-7219
E-mail: phlewis@wisc.edu

# Regional Design Introduction

To achieve a congenial urban form and conserve resources- and make full use of the present fabric encompassed by existing Urban Service Areas (USA's) requires the application of regional design principles and skills. The use of regional design to reflect and enhance natural, social, and economic resources indigenous to a given region maximizes the existing strengths of that region. The National Endowment for the Arts now recognizes regional design as a field of the arts that requires financial and recognition support. Regional design is required to make good comprehensive and transportation plans, and is deeply involved in landuse planning of all kinds. The private sector needs to take regional design into consideration when proposing development at any scale. Regional design provides the designation of the proper frameworks, and the organization and methods of interpretation of available data for the development at any scale. In addition, when changes and re-development occur, regional design is needed to ensure that those changes are beneficial and viable in the long run.

Where to build, where not to build, and what to build, as well as how direct resource restoration, enhancement, and re-use of existing development, require a large-scale, long-term overview of what the regional design is to be. This approach is being used world-wide and public consciousness of its nature is becoming more general. Considerable public education efforts are still required to supplant unguided growth, with preservation of our local and global life-support system, and reaching social justice, economic, and aestheric goals.

The education effort involves identifying, documenting, and publicizing regional frameworks for development, with consensus among universities, government, non-profit organizations, and the business community where they will be presented and disseminated to the general public. (The comprehensive planning process should encompass this approach to organize its goals and priority-setting activities.) Promulgation of regional design concepts and their frameworks by means of teaching at all levels, producing prototypes of regional plans and facilitating thier application, extension and outreach work, and government activities are all things I have done for over fifty-years that need to be continued and expanded upon by many more people.

The recent DNR publication *Wisocnsin Land Legacy Report, 2006* mentions my major inventory of statewide environmental corridors that helped many communities design parks and open space initiatives- and that these plans 'pushed the envelope' and changed the way institutions and the public view land and water protection. The corridor concept has been the basis of land-acquisition by the Southeast Regional Plan Commission of the state of Wisconsin since 1962.

Development issues and the transportation and energy crisis bring regional design to the forefront. We no longer have the luxury of permitting any development scheme to proceed without determining regional goals and visions as well as the forms which they will take.

Although considerable time is required for the actualization of 'big picture' plans, and the attention that is needed to keep them up to date, their utility and worthiness is clear. They provide a long-term context within which to identify and evaluate short-term opportunities.

Phil Lewis

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Acknowledgements of Recent Important Designers and Their Work:

Kongjian Yu
Dean of the Graduate School of Landscape Architecture
Professor, Doctor of Design
Graduate School of Landscape Architecture, Peking University
Beijing 100871, P.R. China

Professor Binyi Liu
Chairman of the Department of Landscape Studies
1239 Spring Road
Shanghai 200092, P.R. China

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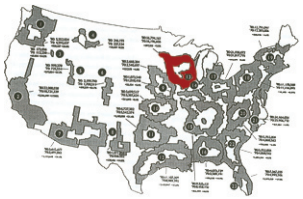

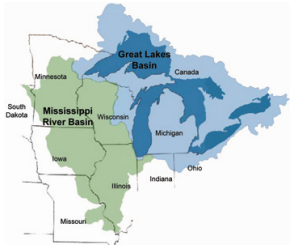

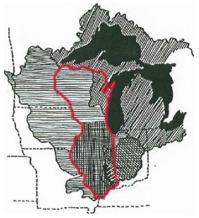

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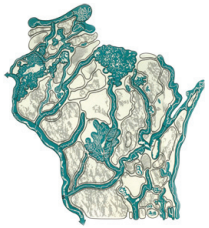

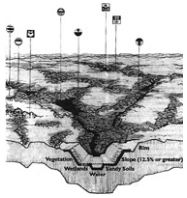

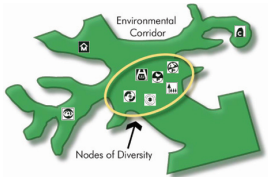

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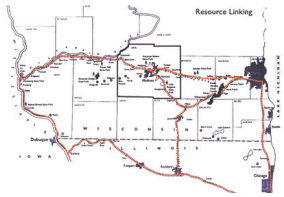


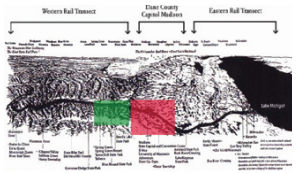

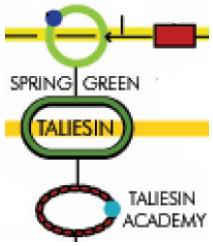


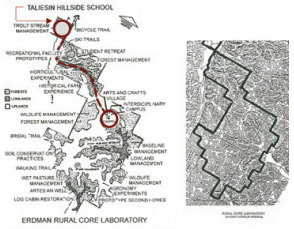


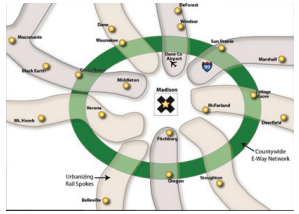

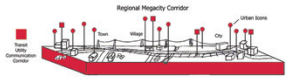


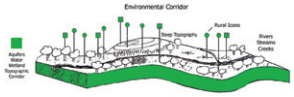

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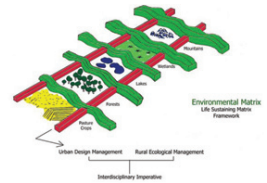


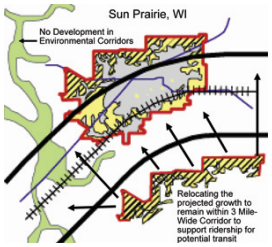


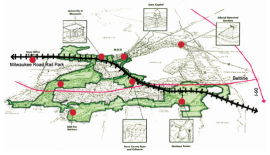

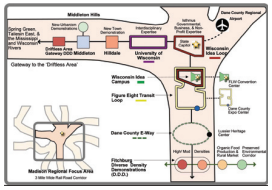

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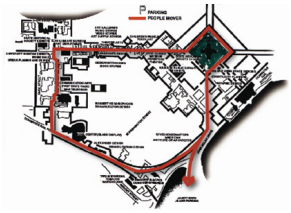

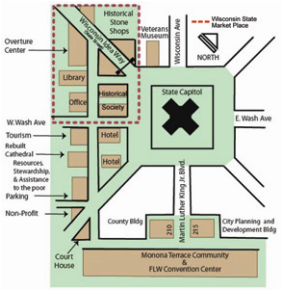


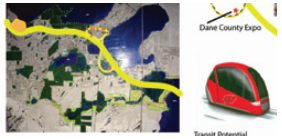


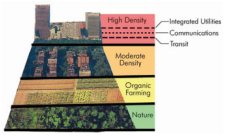


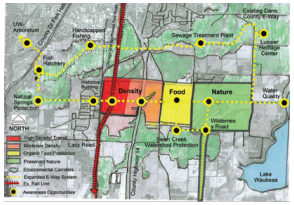

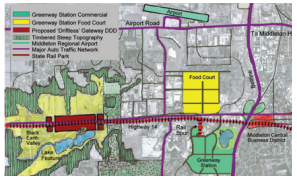

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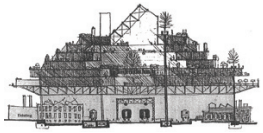

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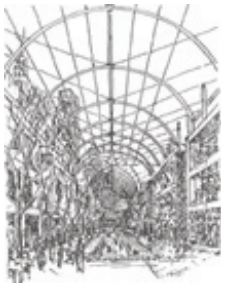

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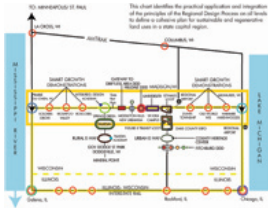

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# Unguided Growth Threatens Global Life Support Systems

# Current World Population

Globally 200,000 new babies are born each day!

**U.S. Population Projections in 2007**

1 Birth/ 7 Seconds

1 Death/ 13 Seconds

1 Immigrant/ 27 Seconds

Net Change: 1 new person/ 10 Seconds

**Predicted Natural Growth Rates**
(minus deaths) in 2003

73 Million / Year
6 Million / Month
200,000 / Day
8,000 / Hour
139 / Minute
2.3 / Second

**World Population Projections**

2007: 6,567,000,000

2025: 7,940,000,000

2050: 9,243,000,000

(41 percent increase)

**U.S. Population**

2007: 302,000,000

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and the Population Reference Bureau

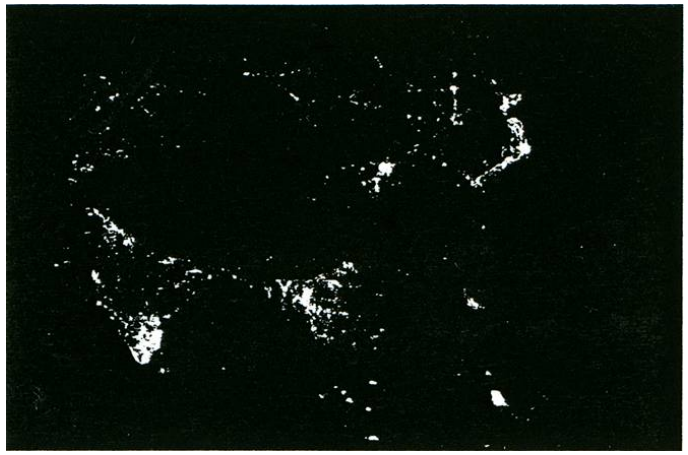
# People : : Impact

Recognized Problems

Human Midwest Impact

# Urban Growth & Sprawl

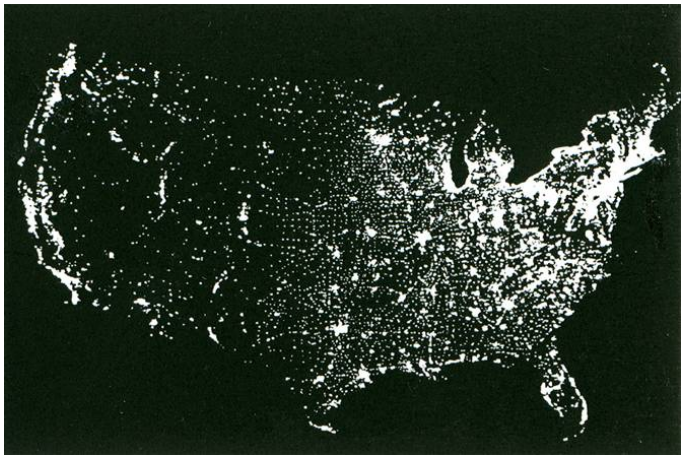
## Lights at Night



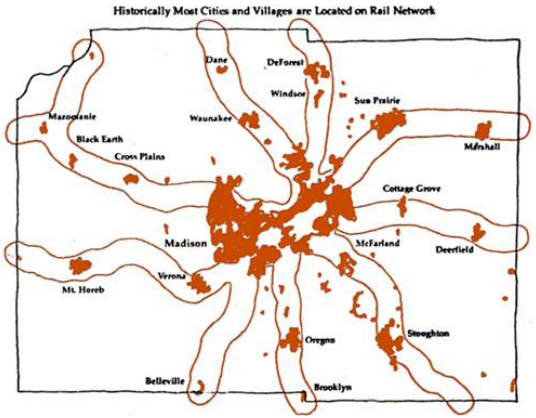
Global Corridors

European Corridors

Midwest



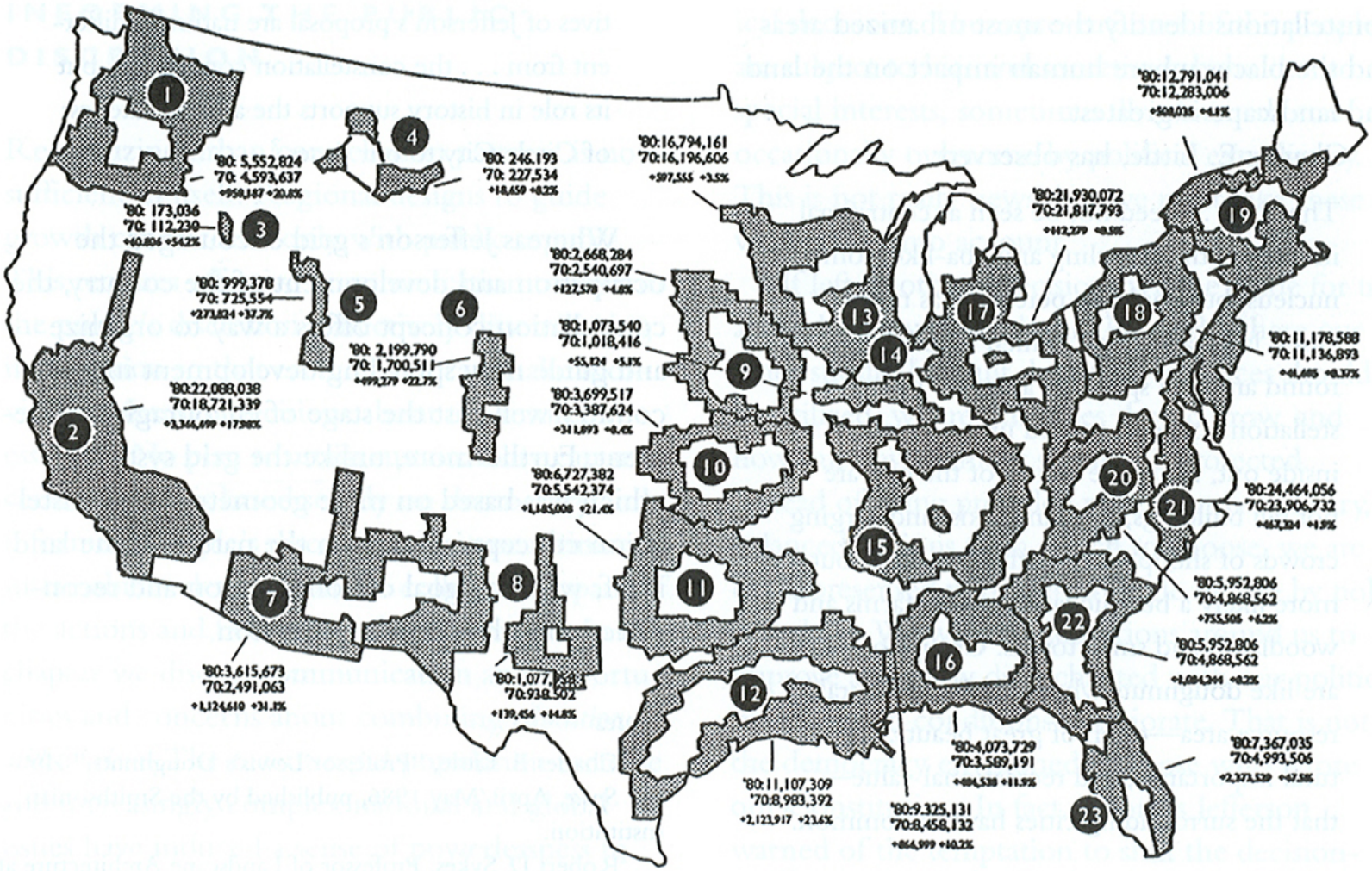
National Corridors




Dane County

# Urban Growth & Sprawl

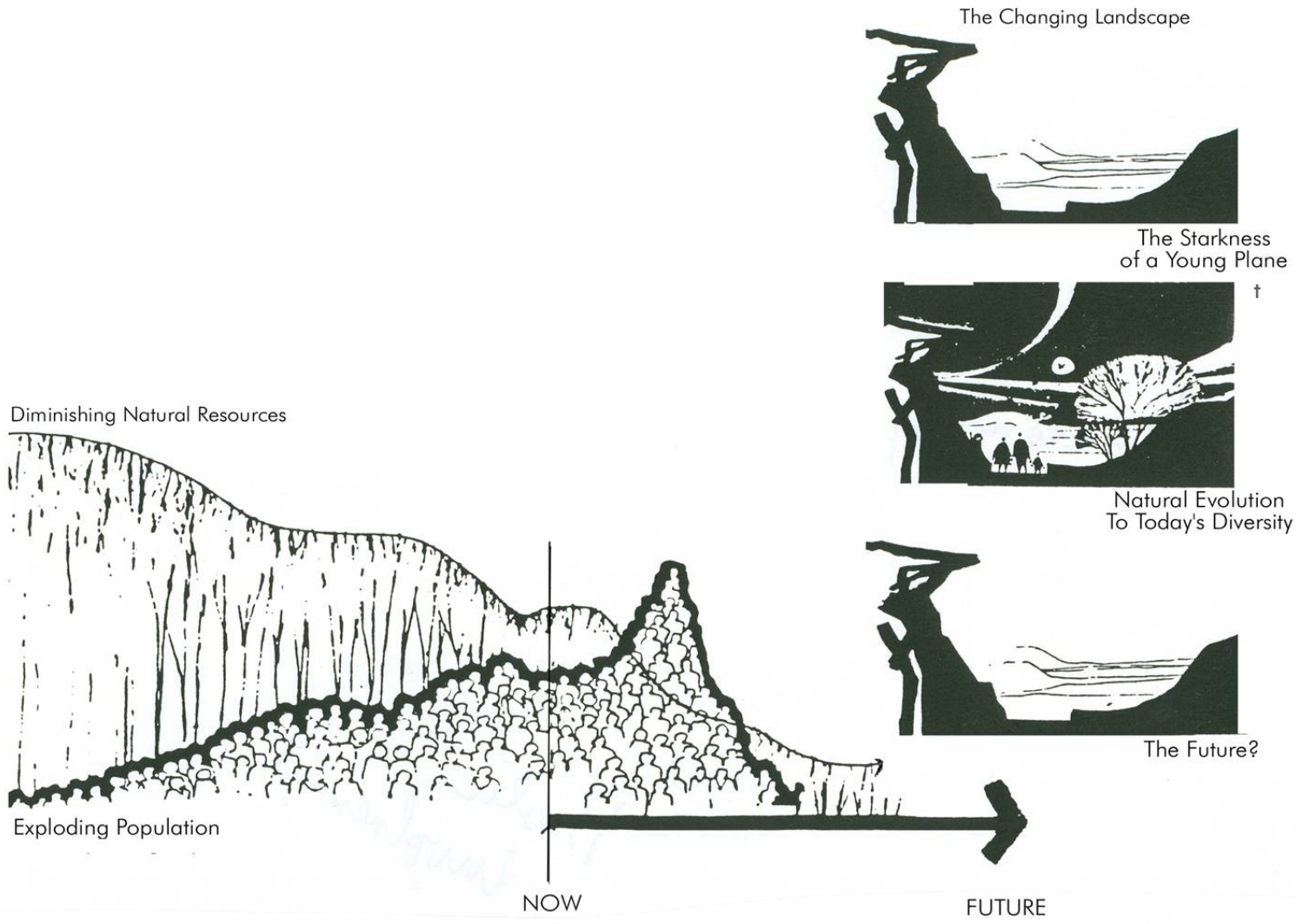
## National County 1970 and 1980 Populations




Source: *Tomorrow by Design*, author Prof. Phil H. Lewis: Page 37

# Our Future?

## Diminishing Natural & Cultural Resources



# Inventorying Natural & Cultural Resources as Form Determinants in the Paths of Urbanizing Sprawl

Upper Mississippi & Great Lakes Resource Inventories Supported by a National Park Service & Corps of Engineers Contract

# Upper Mississippi River Basin

# Upper Mississippi River

# River & Lake Basin Values

**INDEX FOR OUTSTANDING–UNUSUAL–SIGNIFICANT AESTHETIC AND CULTURAL VALUE INVENTORY**

1. WATER AND ITS ENVIRONS

A. Water in Motion

B. Beaches

C. Wetlands

2. LAND FORMS

A. Rock Formations

B. Glacial Remains

C. Underground Caverns

D. Interesting Topography

3. VEGETATION

A. Trees & Shrubs

B. Wildflowers

C. Grasses

D. Aquatic Plants

4. WILDLIFE HABITAT

A. Animals

B. Upland Game Birds

C. Birds of Prey

D. Songbirds

E. Water Birds

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Modern Structures

B. Historical Structures and Places

C. Sites and Objects Pertaining to Early Indian Culture

6. PARKS

A. Proposed Federal Park

B. Proposed State Park

C. Proposed County Park

D. Proposed Municipal Park

Existing Federal Park

Existing County Park

Existing State Park

Existing Municipal Park

7. DAMS & RESERVOIRS

A. Existing Conservation Dams (S.L.S.) (S.C.S.)

B. Proposed Conservation Dams

C. Existing Corp Dams

D. Proposed Corp Dams

8. NATURAL-CULTURAL SYSTEMS

Environmental texture (symbols)

Water wetland

Corridor outline

Environmental corridor

Vegetation

Existing human impact

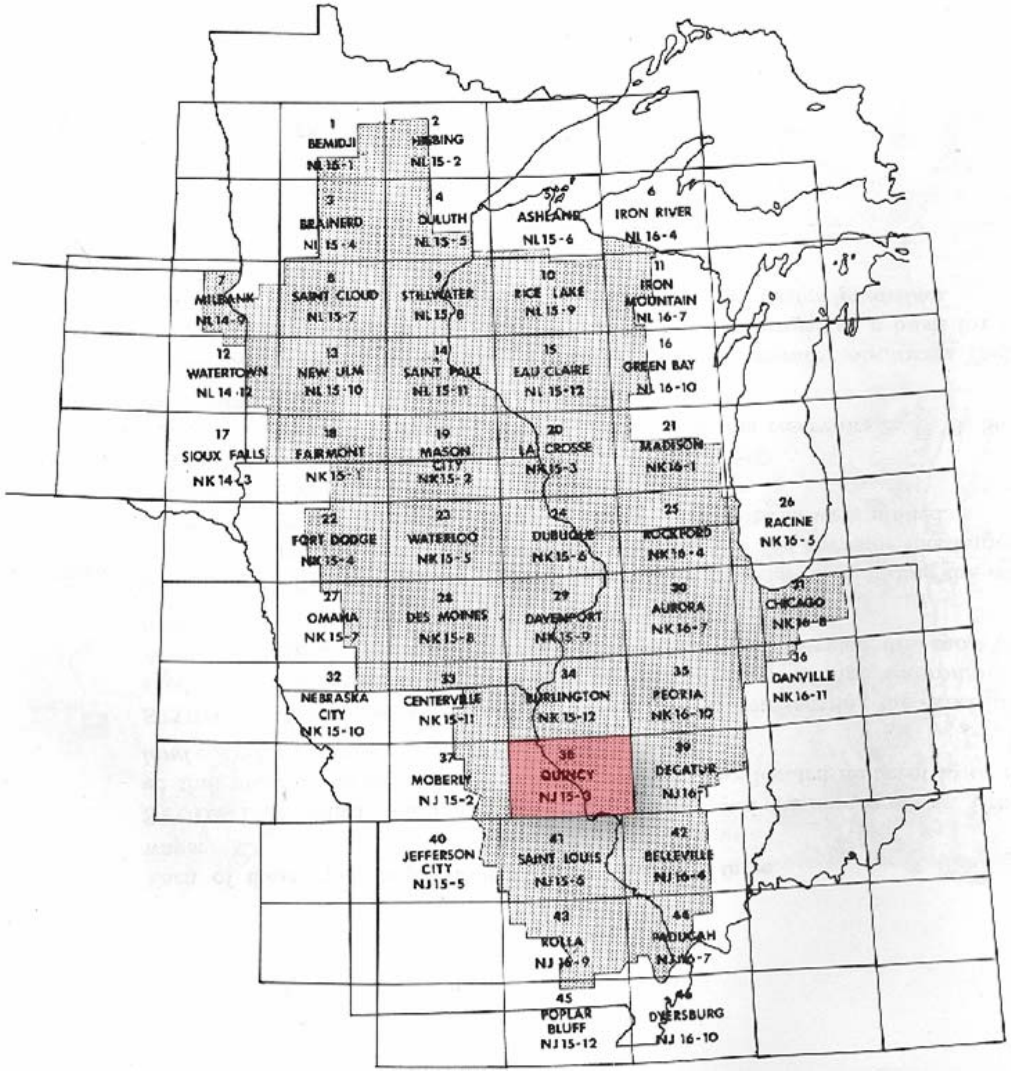
Future impact (educated guess)

Topography

Mississippi watershed outline

# Upper Mississippi River Basin

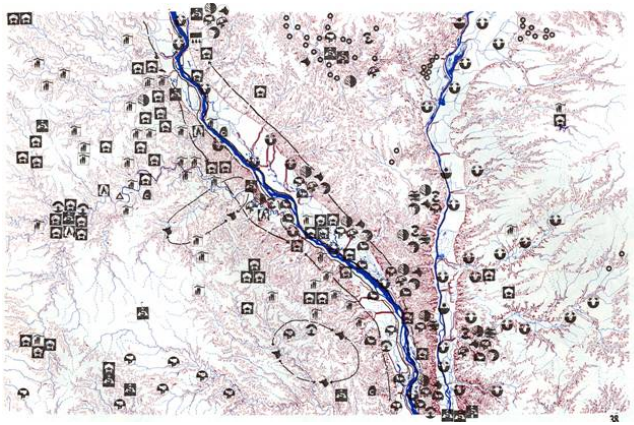
## Section 38: Quincy, Illinois

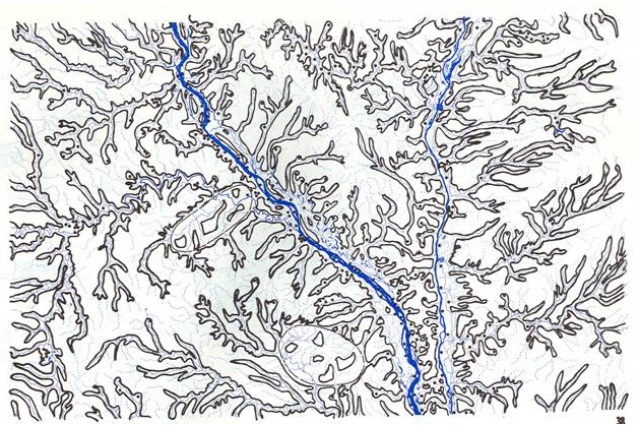


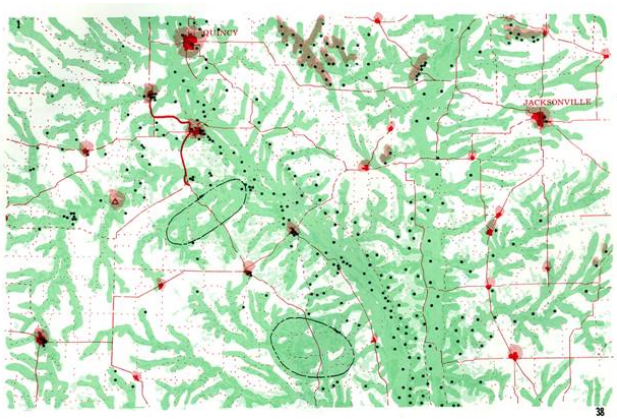

Watersheds Divided by Sections for Detailed Studies

# Upper Mississippi River Basin

## Section 38: Quincy, Illinois








**Study 1:**

Topographic
Water
Wetland
Resource

*Most symbols are located adjacent to or near the water & wetland corridor patterns.*

**Study 2:**

Symbols Reduced to Dots
Water-Wetland Corridors
Environmental Texture

*Concentration of symbols represent environmental texture & diversity*

**Study 3:**

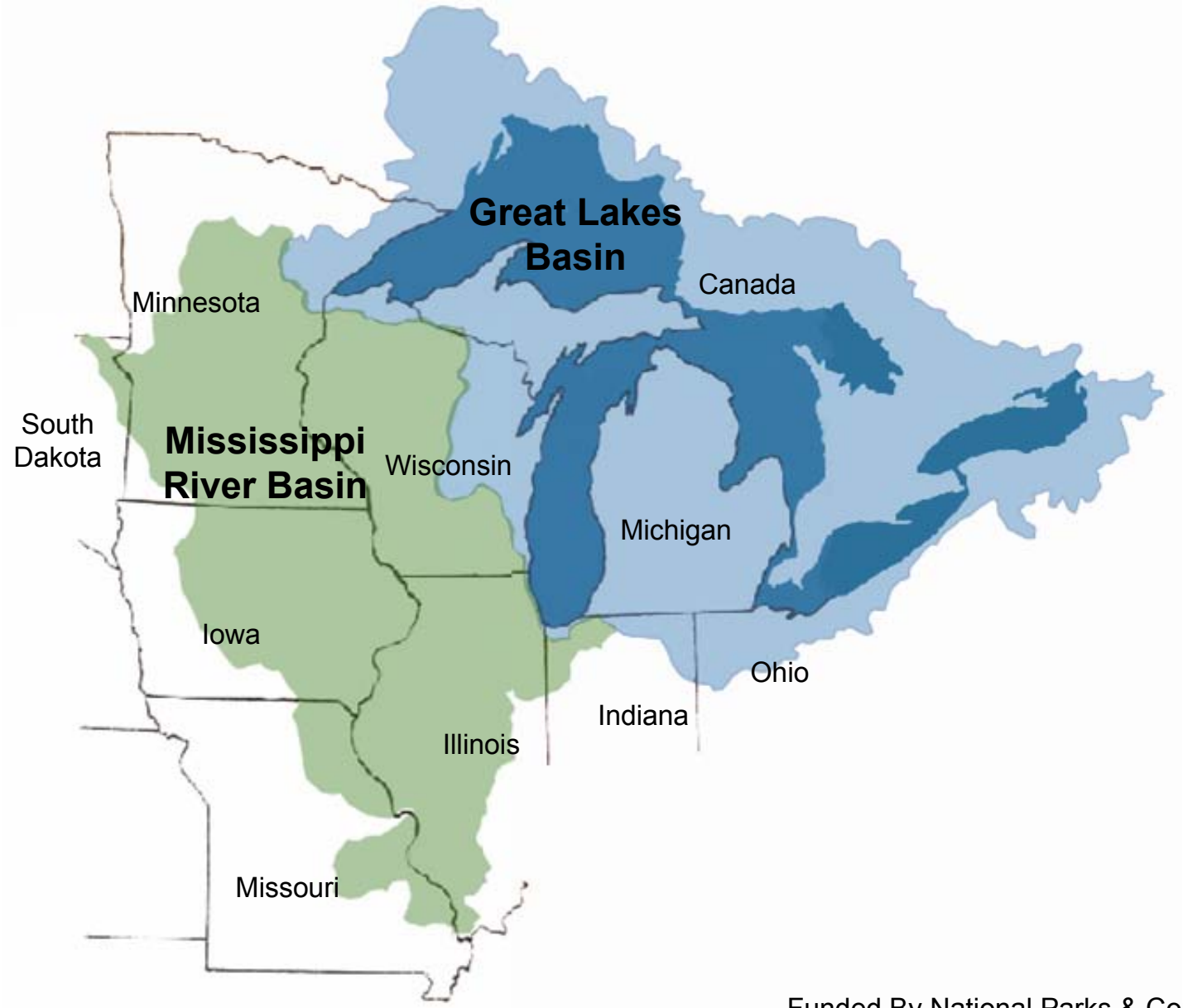
Timber Pattern
Environmental Texture
Projected Urbanization
Major Highway Systems

*Human impacts threaten corridor resources.*

*Requires Wise Design Guidelines.*

# Great Lakes Basin

# Great Lakes & Upper Mississippi River

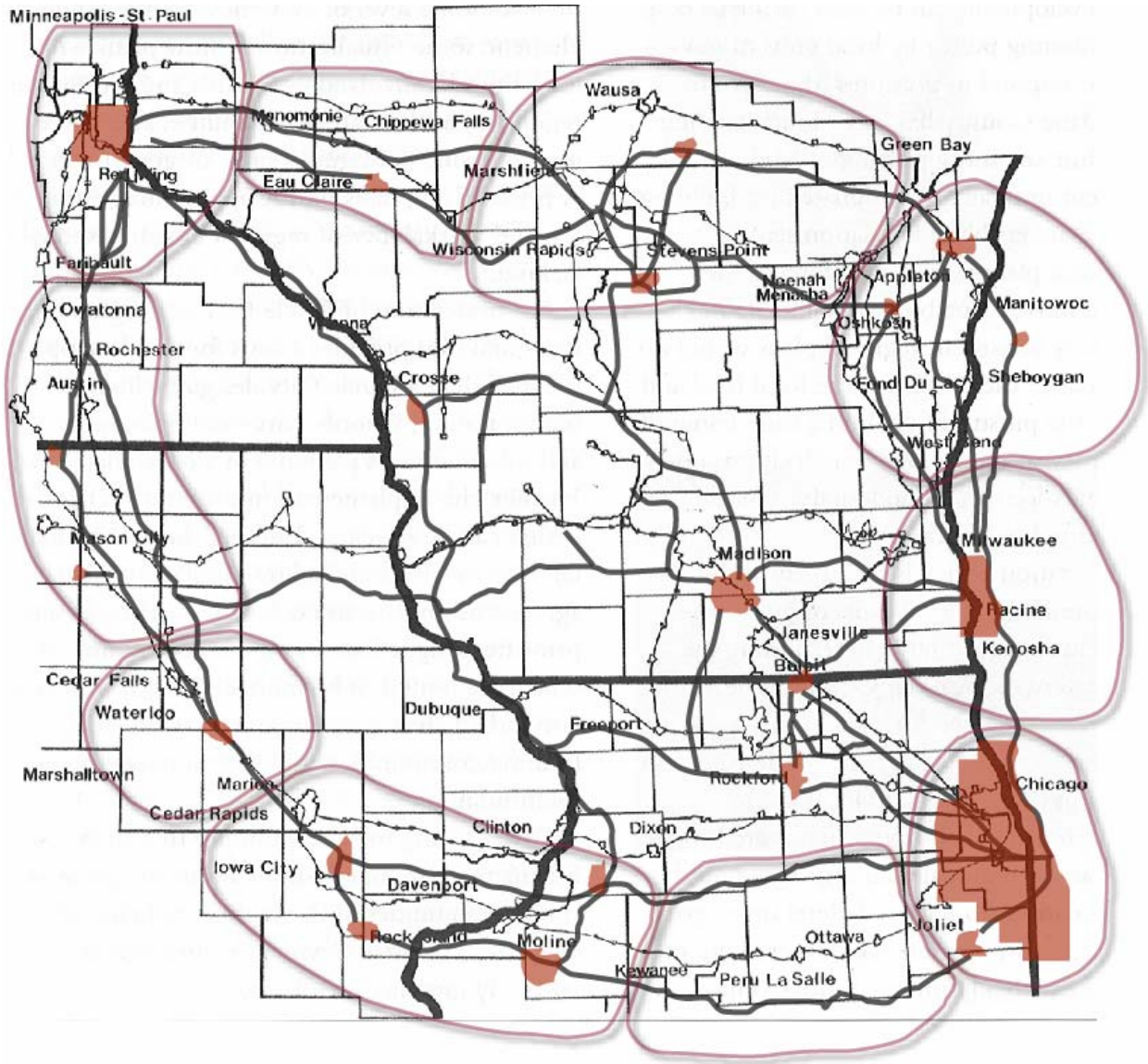



Funded By National Parks & Corps of Engineers

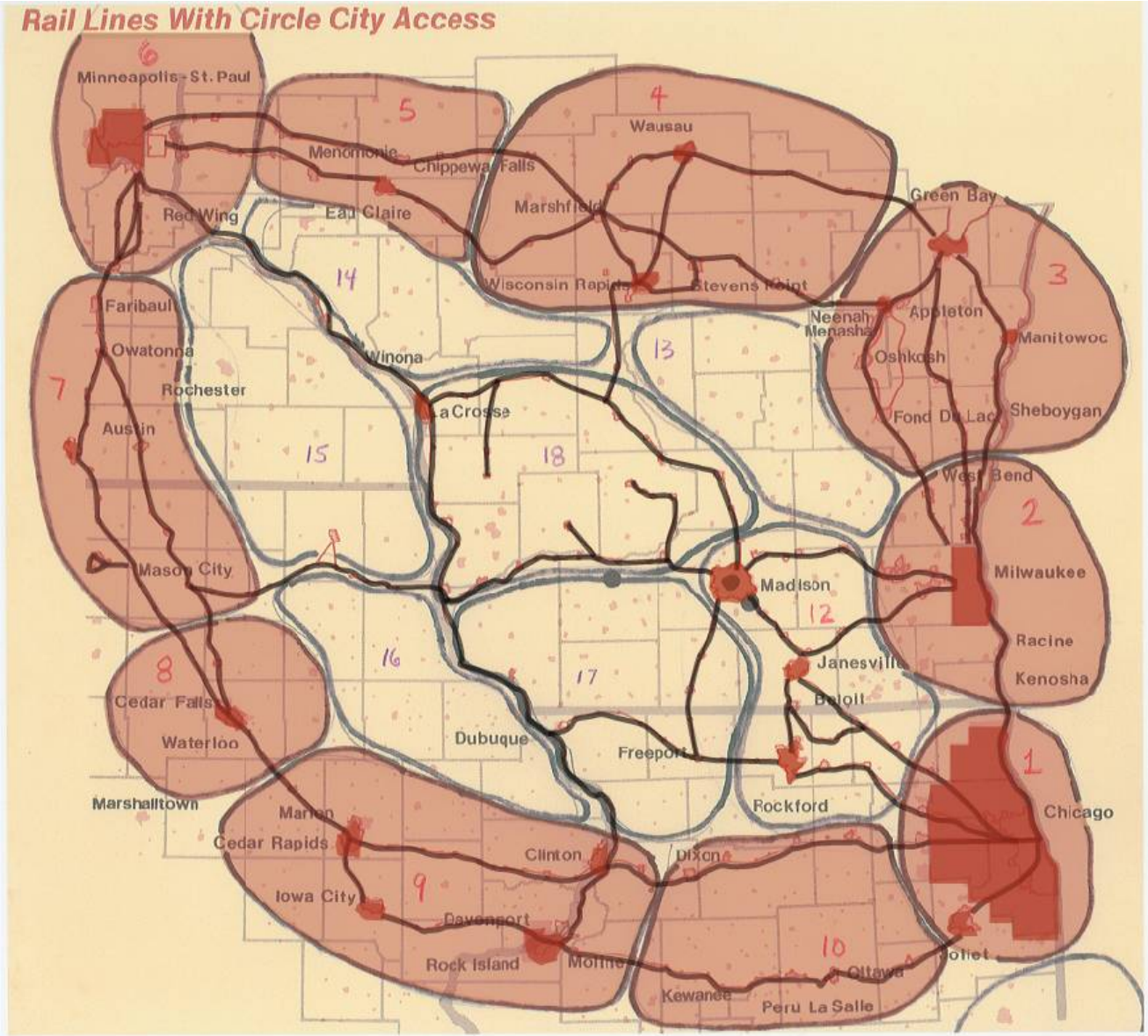
# Midwestern Circle City Impact

# Circle City

Major Cities and Rail Lines



# Circle City Urban Pods



# Managing Sustainable Growth

GEORGE MCCUE -- State Journal photo

# MADWAUKEE

## Development along the I-94 corridor is creating a merged economic landscape

Madison

Janesville

Beloit

Rockford

Lights at Night

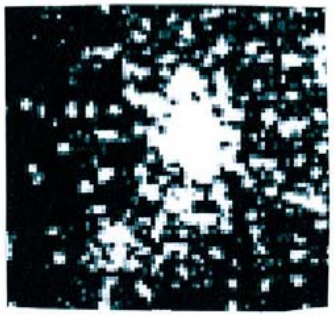
Milwaukee

Chicago

STEVE APPS — State Journal

Regional design expert Phil Lewis, a retired UW-Madison professor shown in his work studio, says the question is not whether Madison and Milwaukee will grow together; it's how to manage that growth.

**Managing**

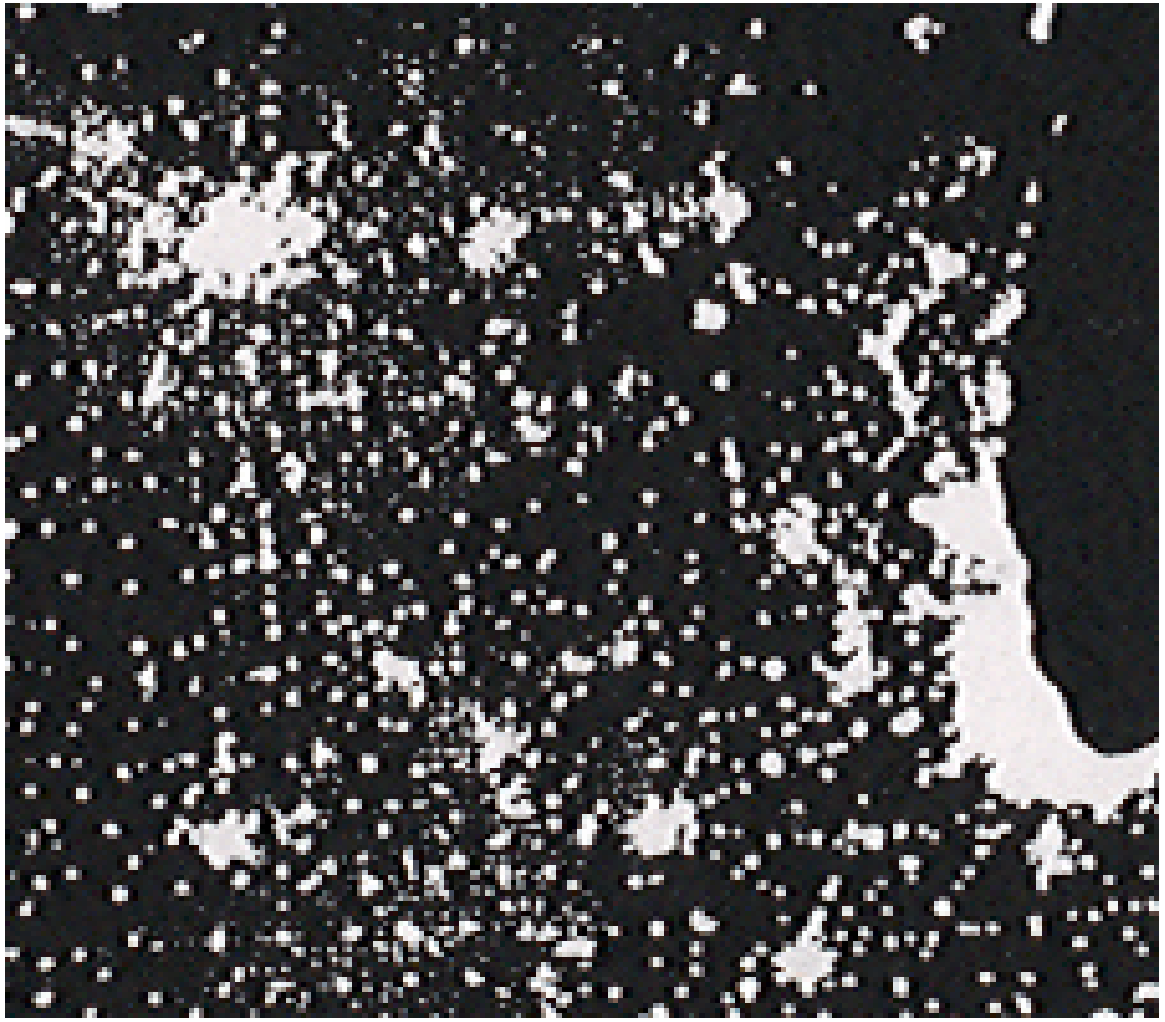


**Sustainable Growth**

# Circle City

## Lights at Night

Minneapolis
St. Paul

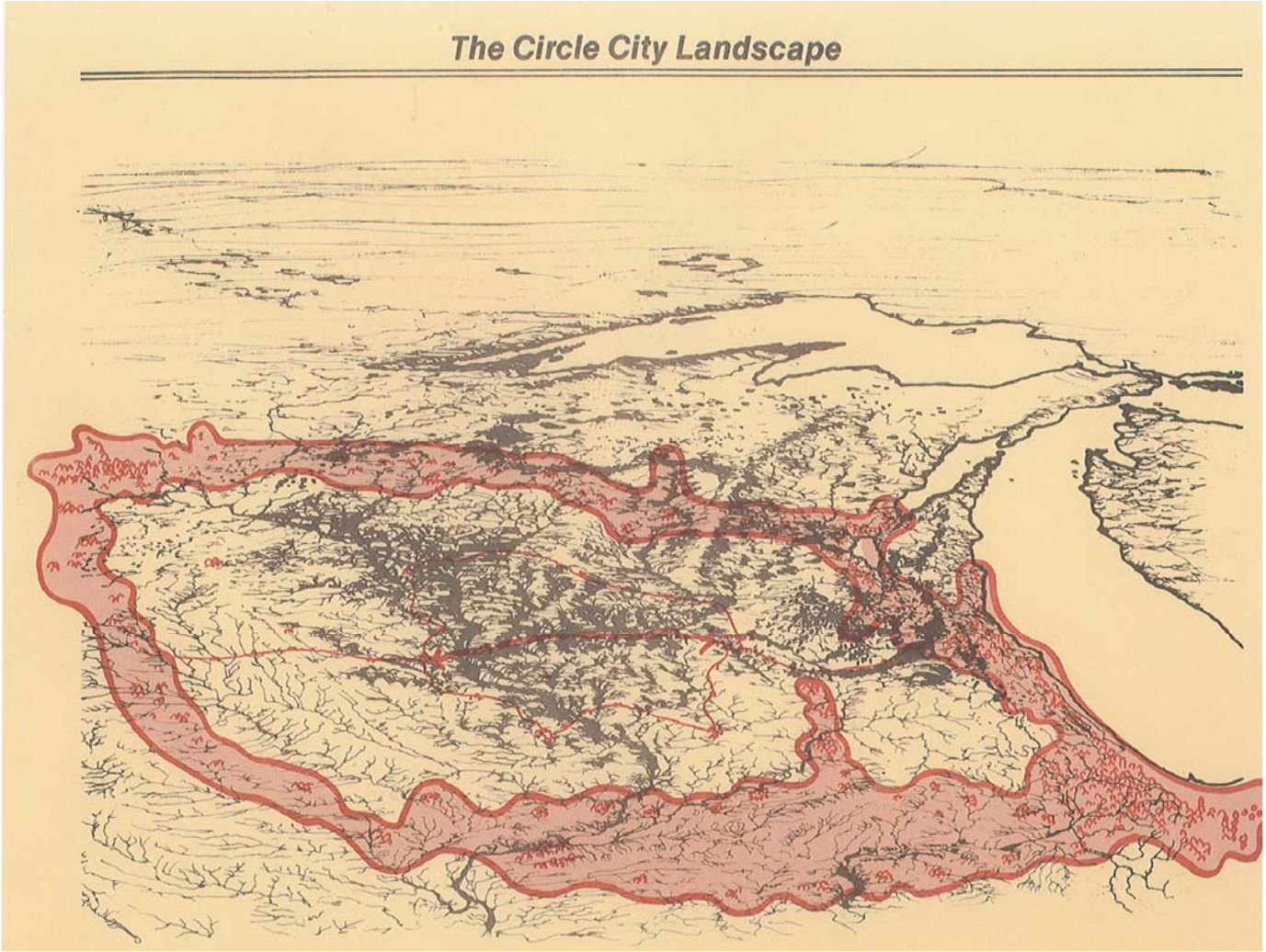


Milwaukee
Madison

Chicago

# Circle City

17 Million People



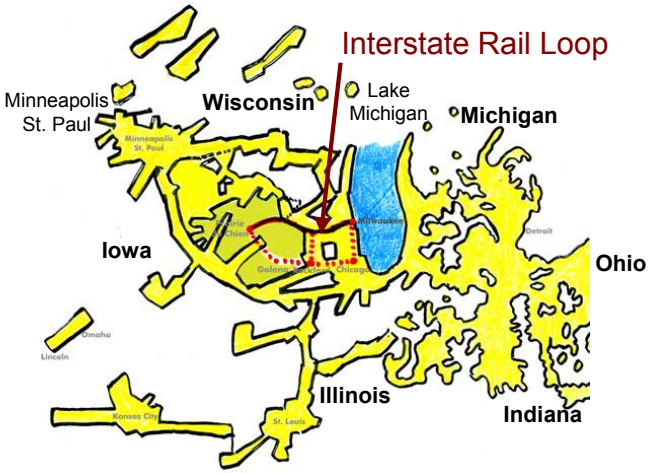
# Midwestern Urban Core Impact

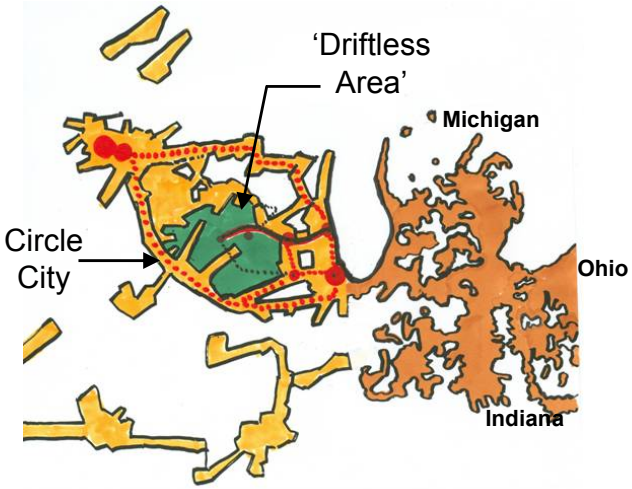
## A Closer Look

Midwest Lights at Night

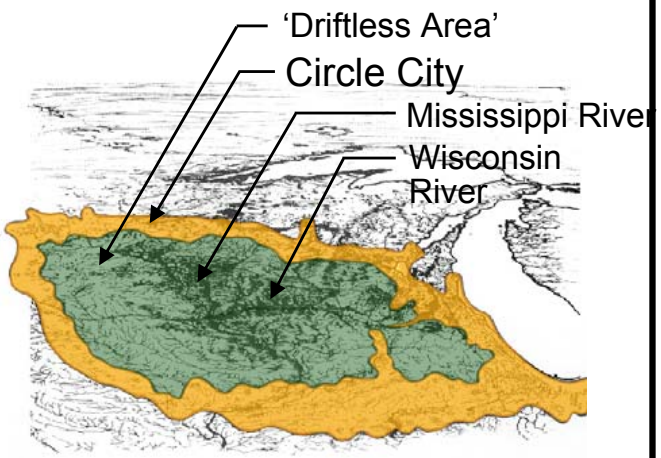
Single Cities vs. Megacities

High Urban Density Moving West




Identifying Circle City, the 'Driftless Area,' and the Interstate Rail Loop



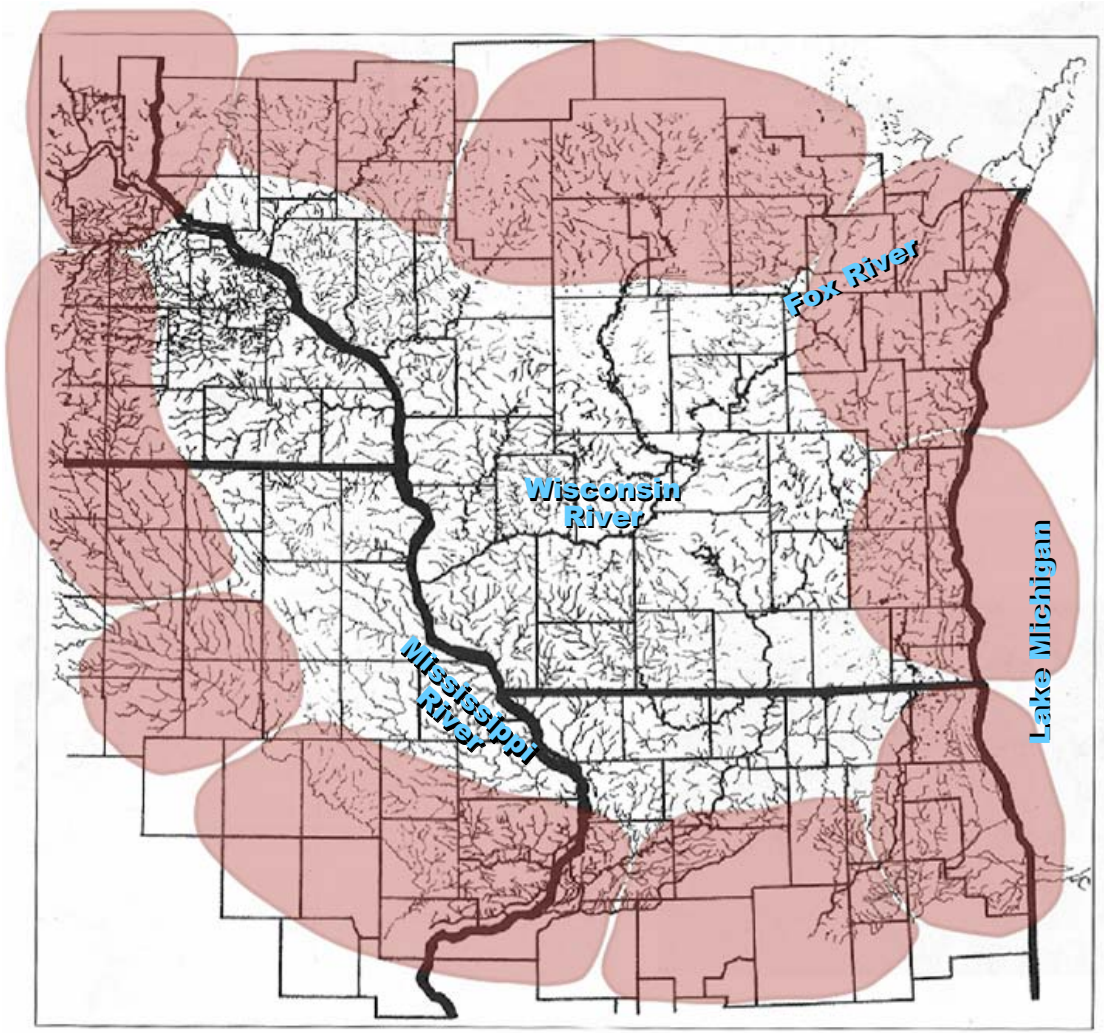

Circle City and River Systems

# Water Wetlands

## Essential to Life

Greatest freshwater body in the world so far from the sea

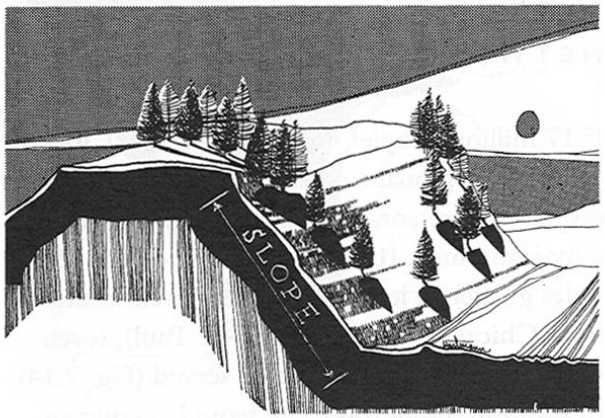
Lake Superior shoreline



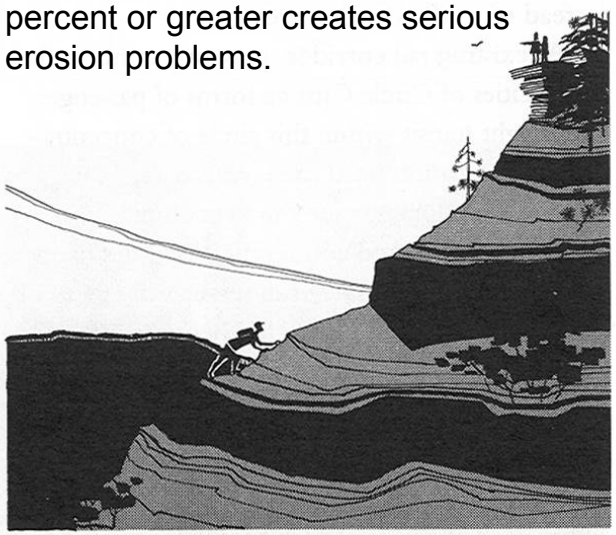

'Driftless Area' Water resources of the Circle City region

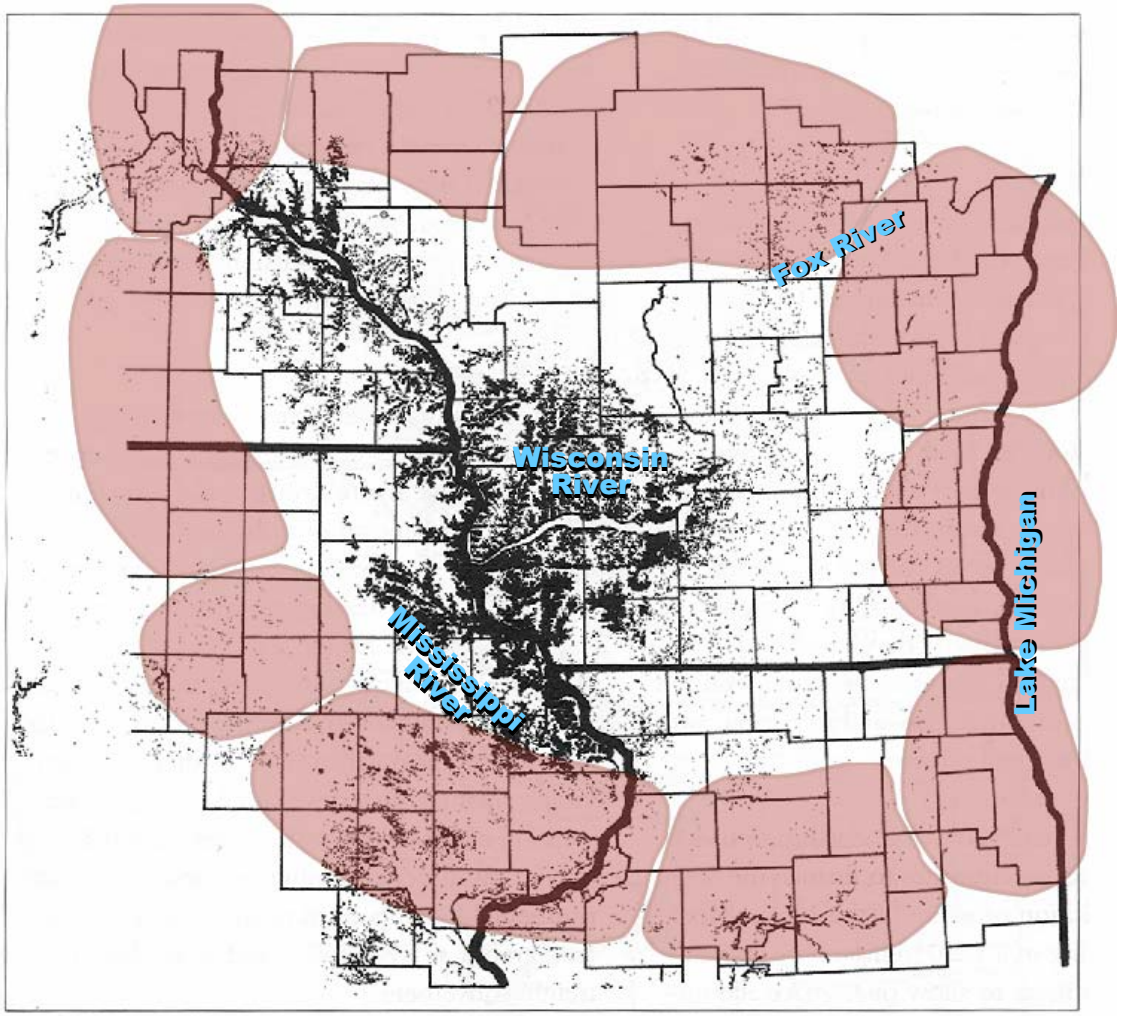
# Steep Topography

## Providing Contrasting Scenery



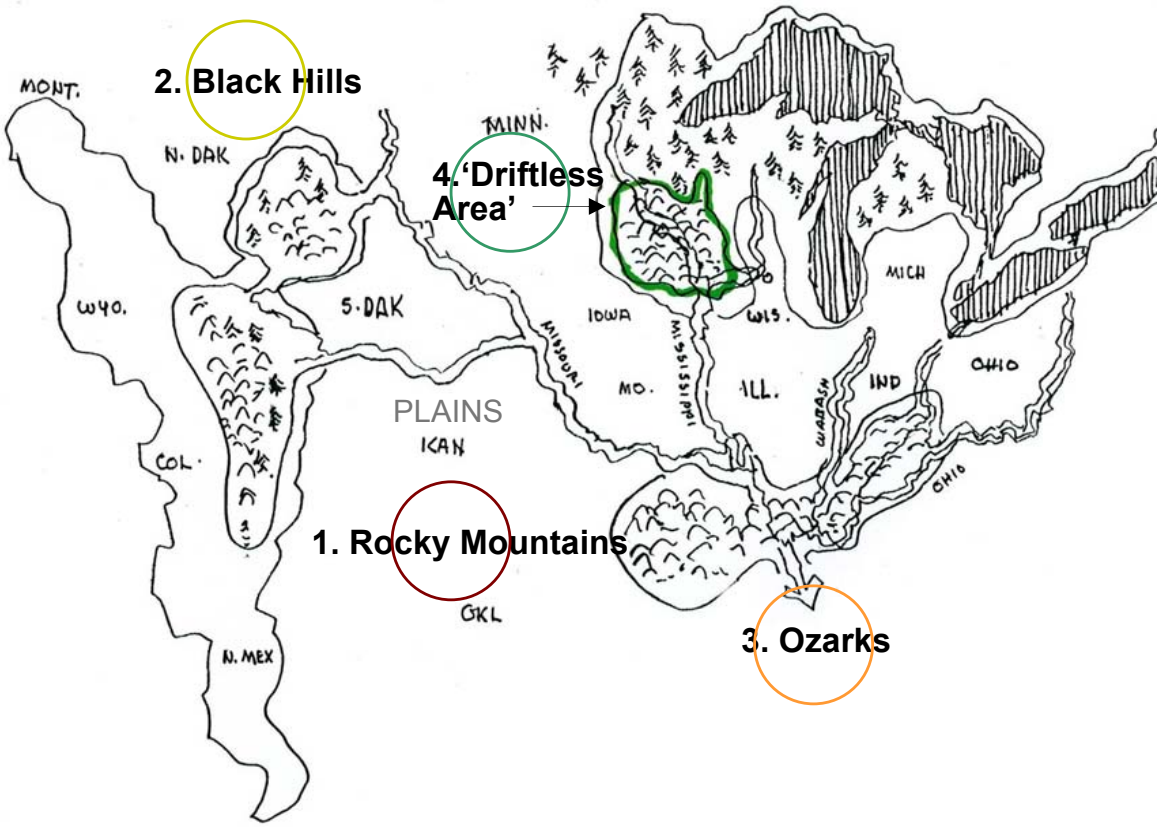

Building or farming on slopes of 12 ½ percent or greater creates serious erosion problems.






'Driftless Area' Steep topography in the core of Circle City

# Invigorating Topography in the Mid-American Landscape

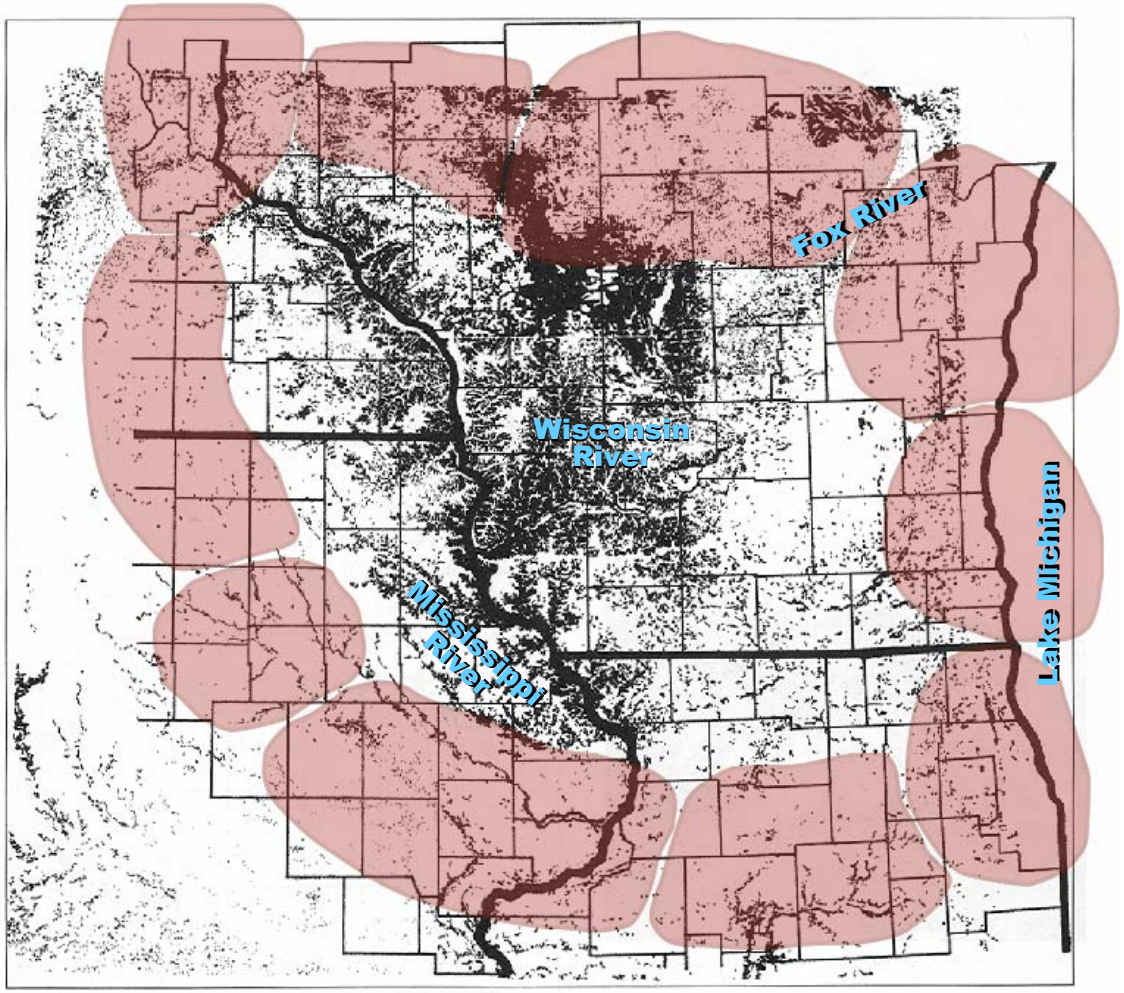


# Vegetation

## Stabilizes Slopes, Produces Wildlife Habitat & Seasonal Colors, and Supplies Regenerative Commercial Products

Timber supply of the North Woods

The beauty of the forest

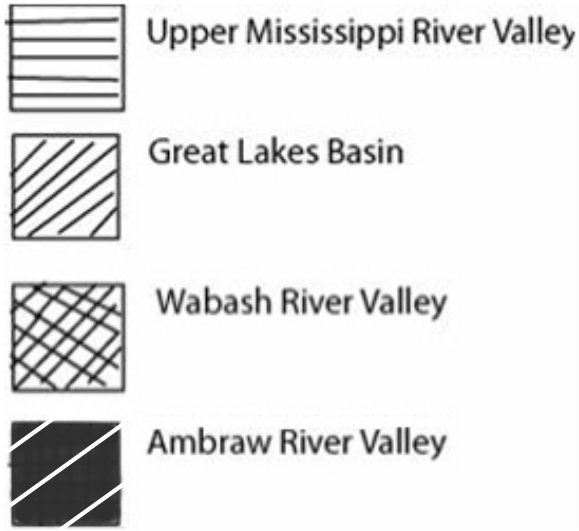



'Driftless Area' vegetation cover in the core of Circle City

# The ‘Driftless Area’

# Midwest Region

**Wisconsin - Illinois Focus**



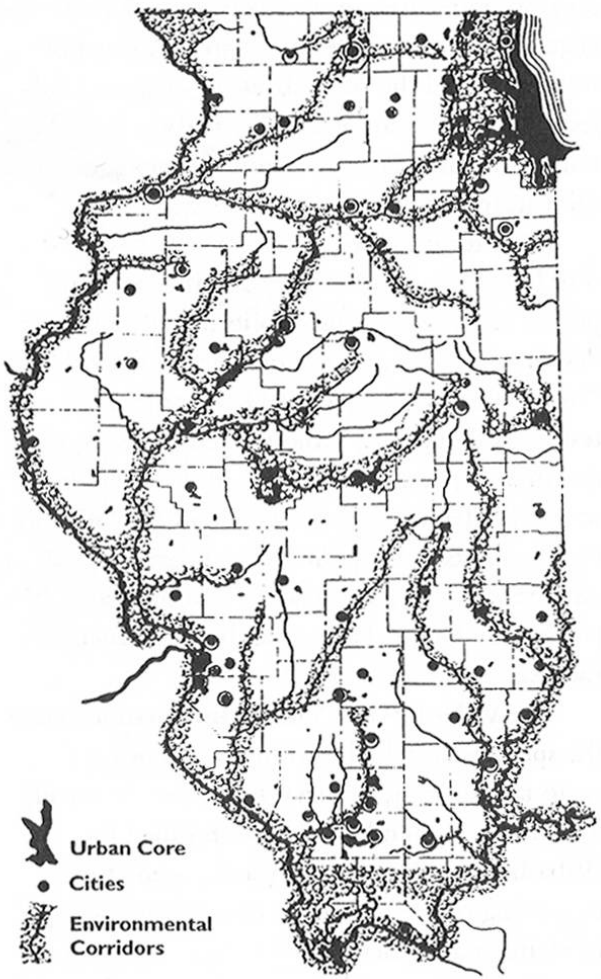
# Illinois Inventory Focus

# Illinois

Illinois Open Water Pattern

Illinois Significant Topography Pattern

Illinois Environmental Corridor Pattern

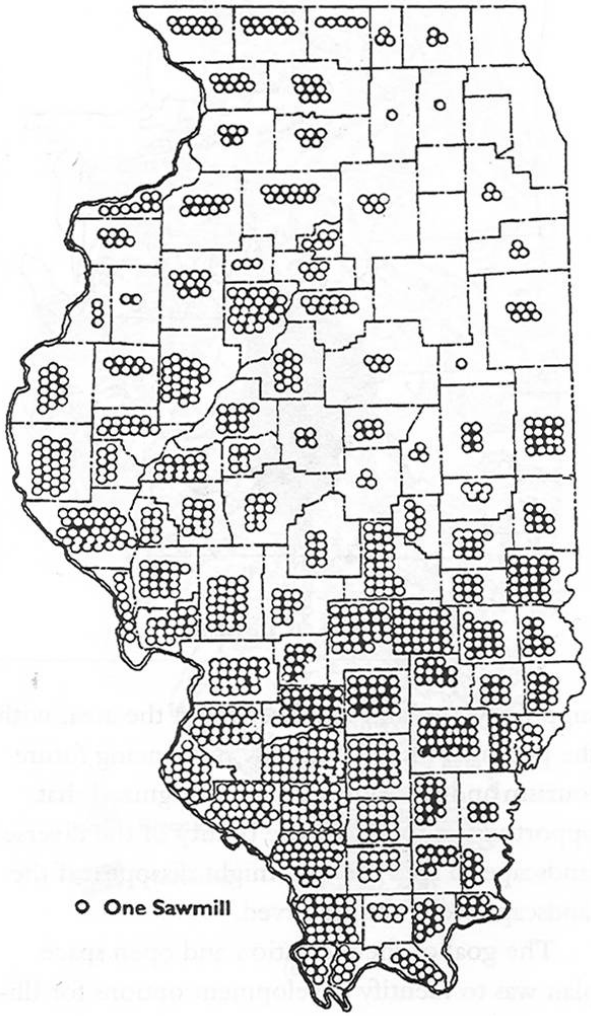



Funded by State Housing Board
through Federal 1954 Housing
Act: Title I Section 701

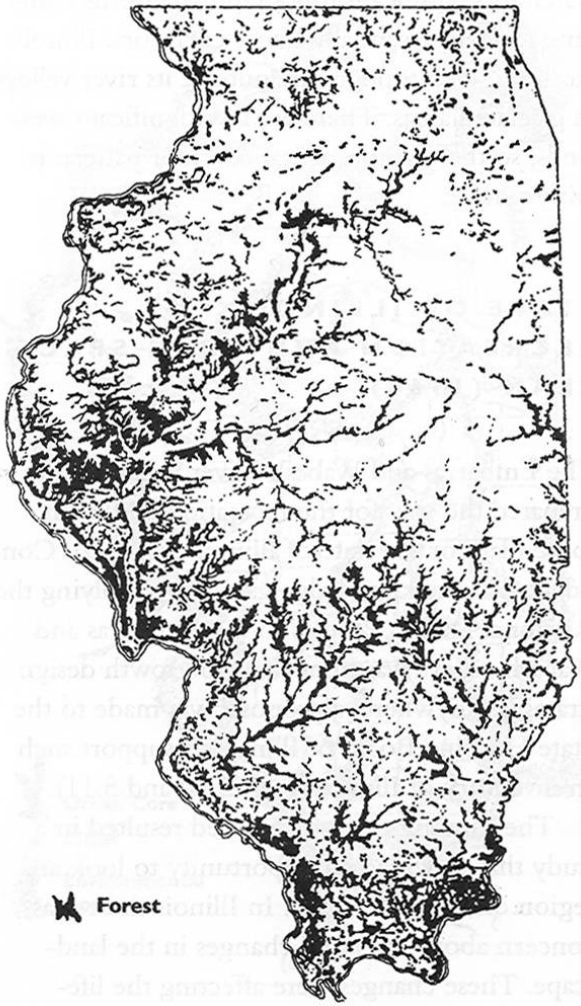
# Illinois

Illinois Timber Pattern: 1812

Illinois Sawmill Distribution: 1960

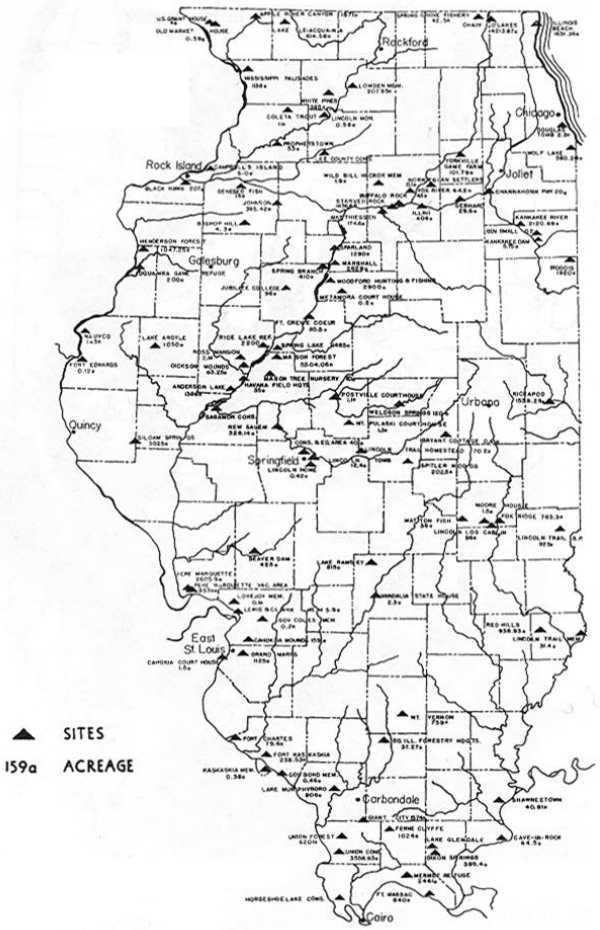



Illinois Forests: 1960

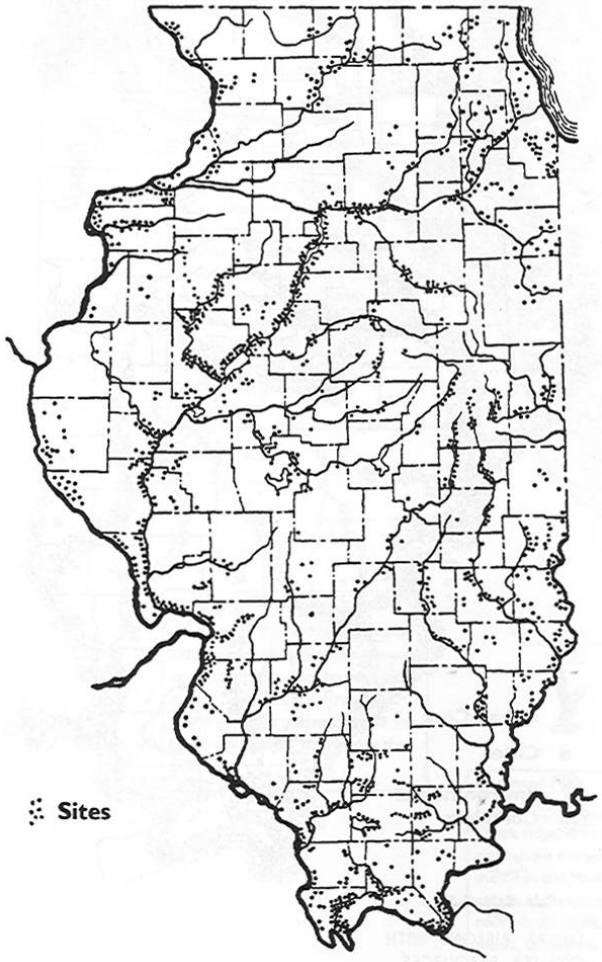


# Illinois

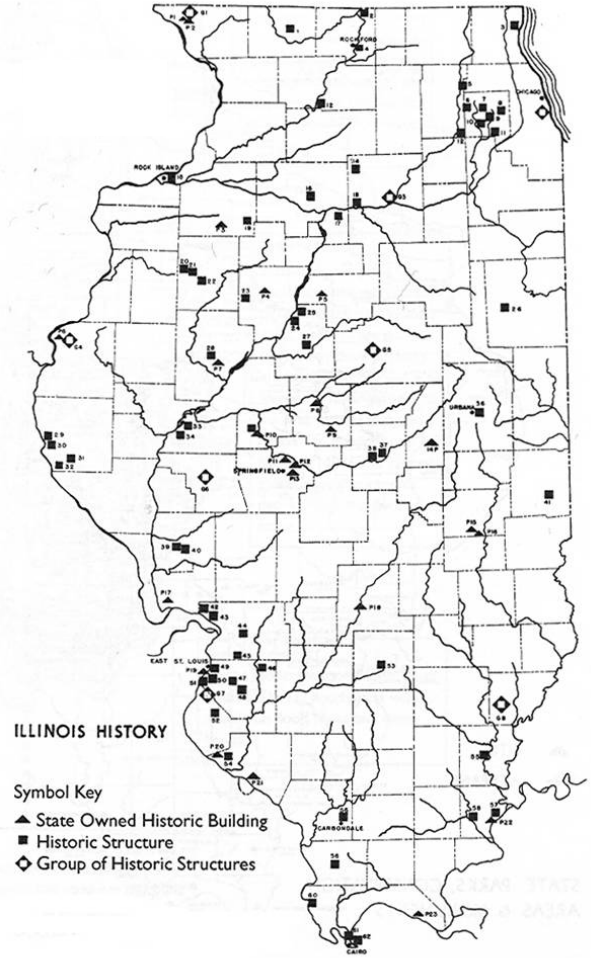
Illinois State Parks
Conservation Area Monuments




Illinois Archaeological Sites

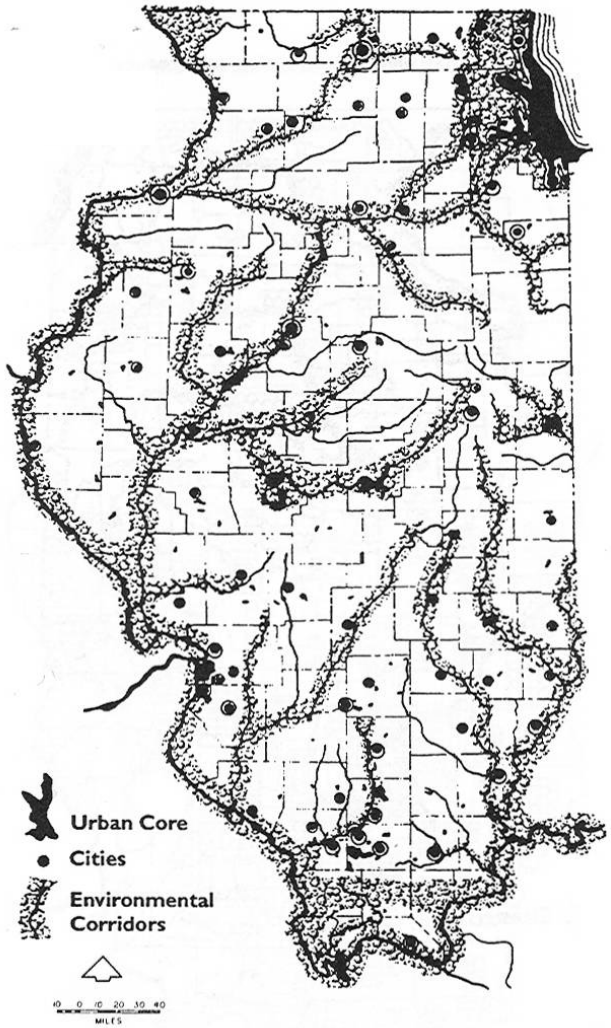



Illinois Historical Sites

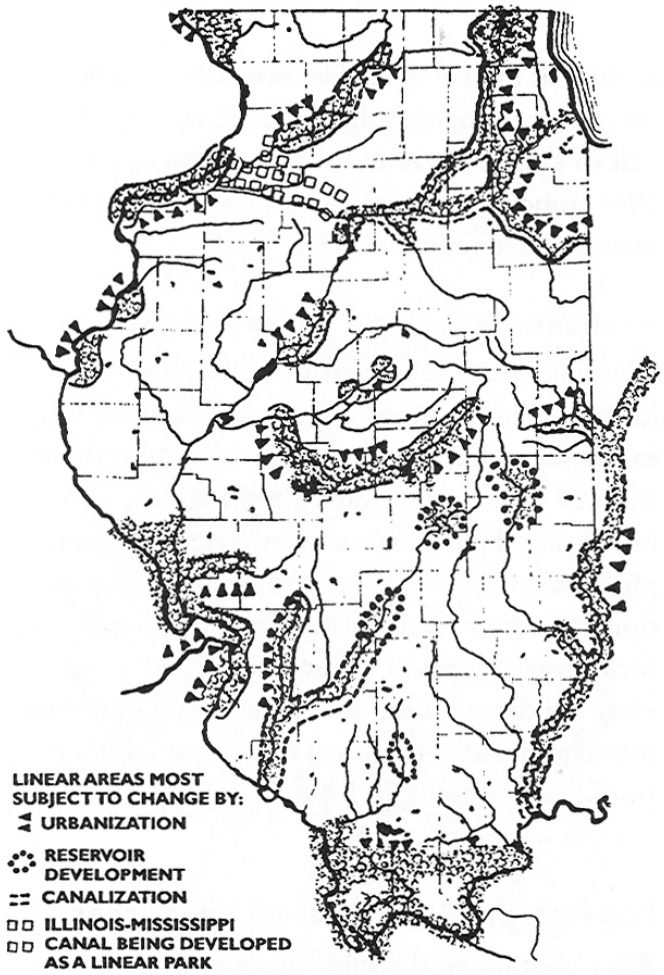


# Illinois

Linear Environmental Corridors




Threats to Environmental Corridors




Illinois Landscape Personalities

# Illinois Farmlands

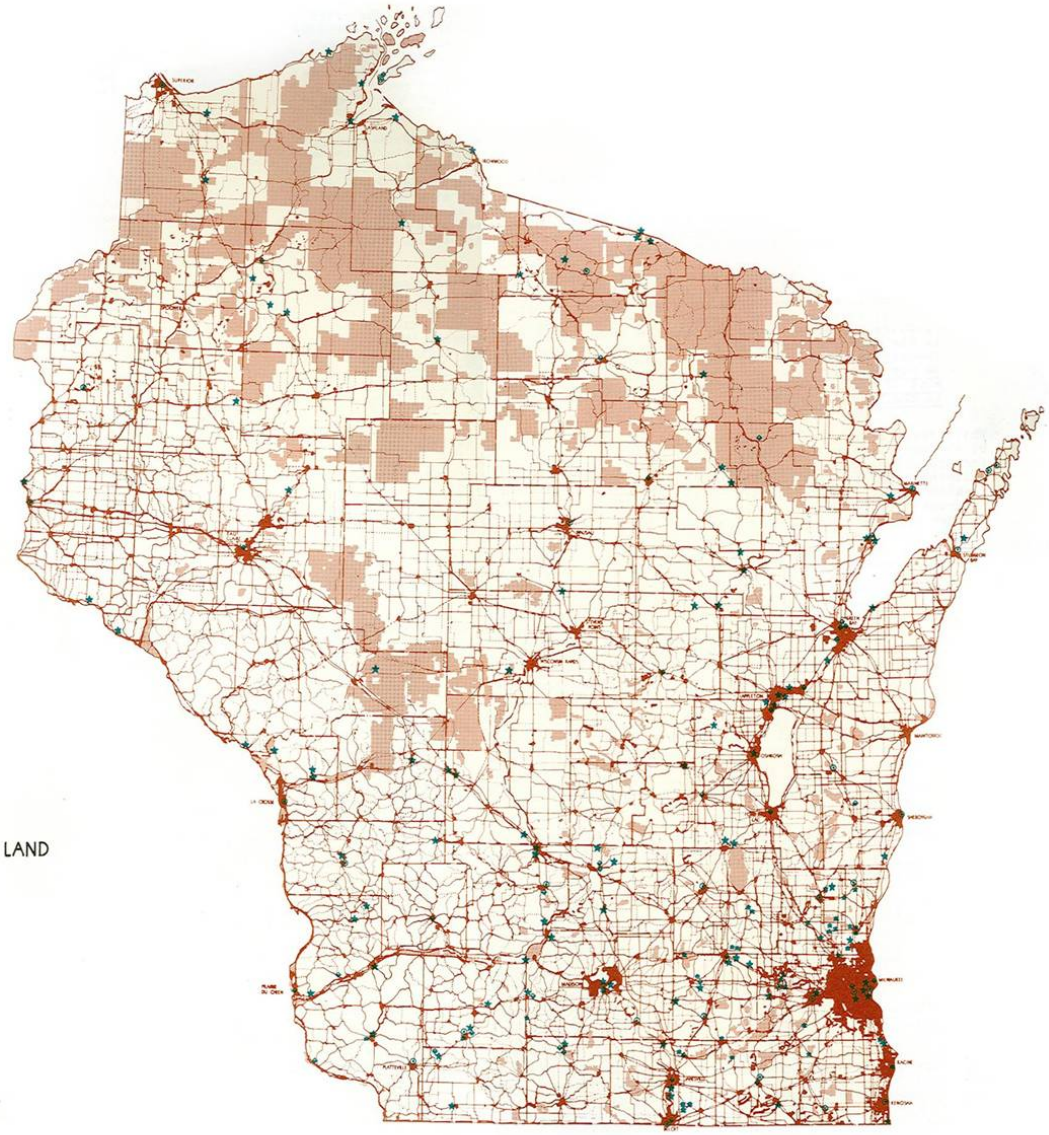
# Wisconsin Inventory Focus: Evolution of Regional Design Process

# Wisconsin Resources

Highway Pattern

Historical Heritage

Existing & Proposed Public Land



MAJOR PRIMARY HIGHWAY

PRIMARY HIGHWAY

RAILROAD

URBAN AREA

EXISTING & PROPOSED PUBLIC LAND

HISTORICAL BUILDING

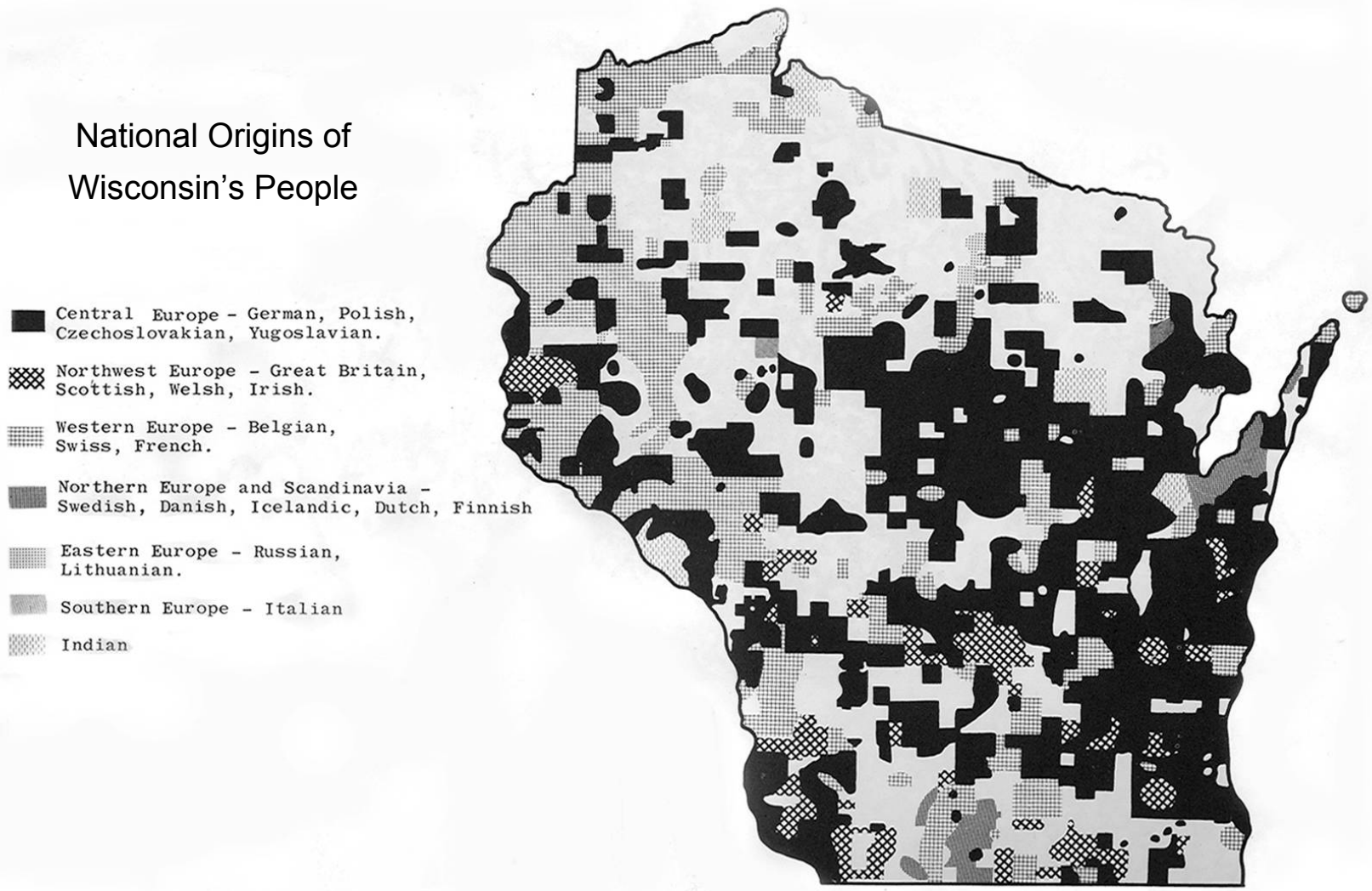
HISTORICAL MARKER

HISTORICAL SITE

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

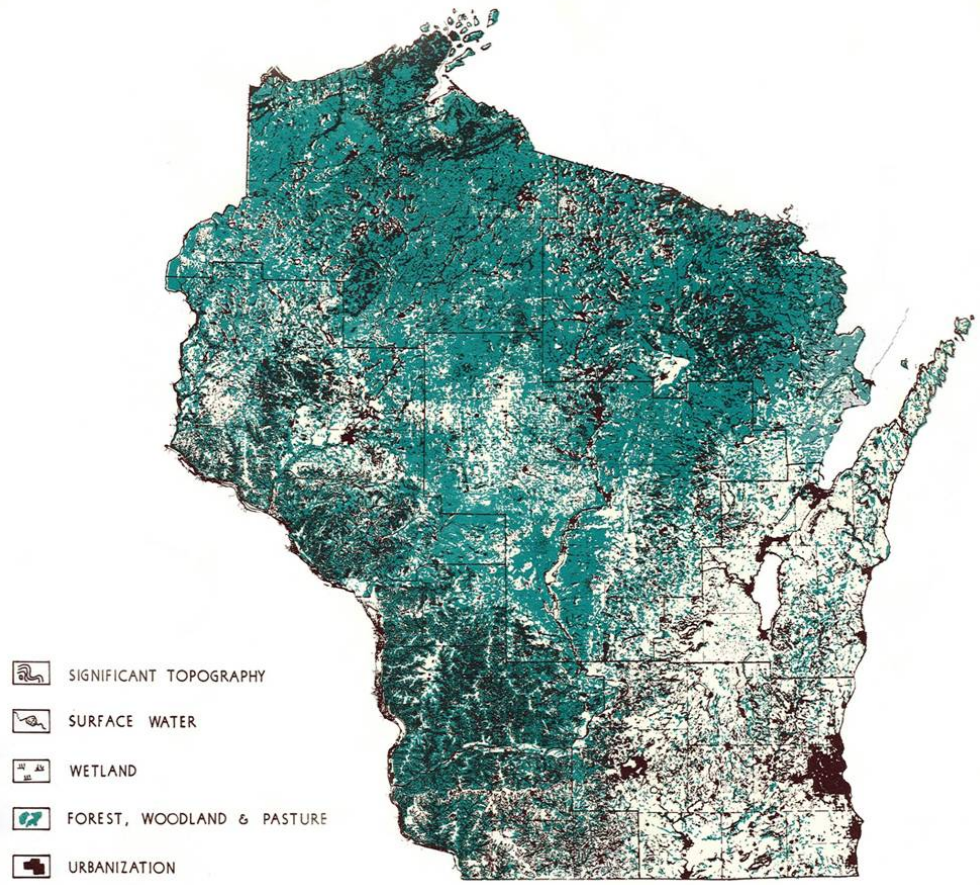
# Wisconsin Resources

National Origins of
Wisconsin's People

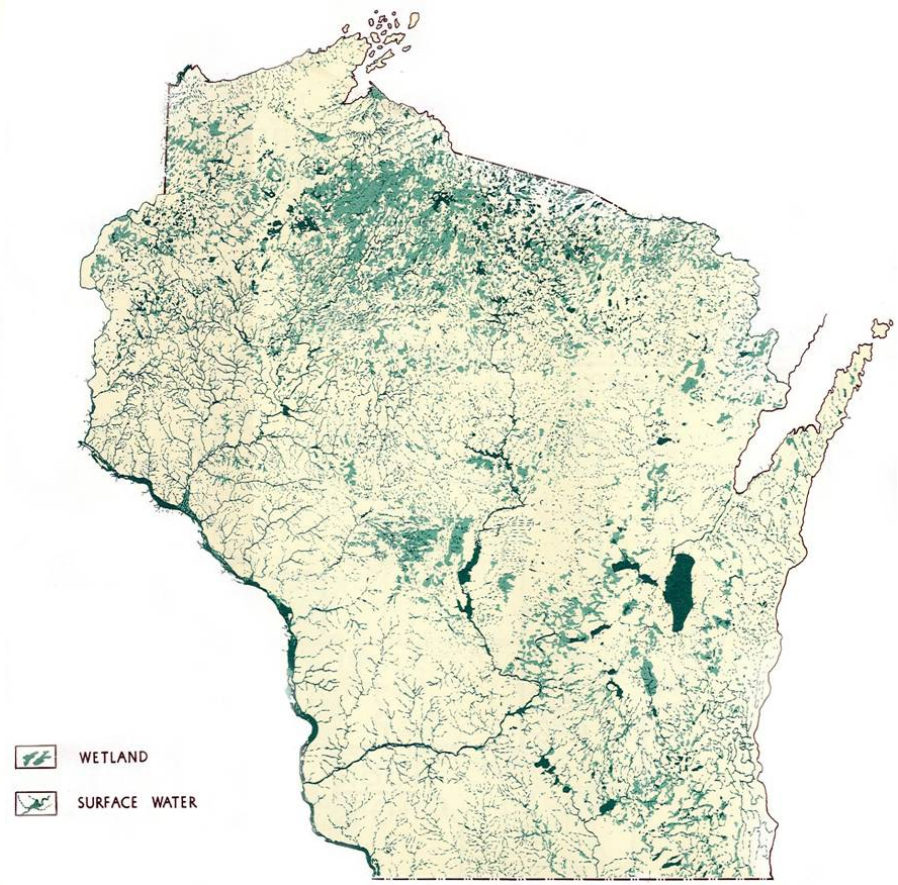



Map based on a study by Professor George W. Hill,
Rural Sociologist of the University of Wisconsin

# Wisconsin Resources

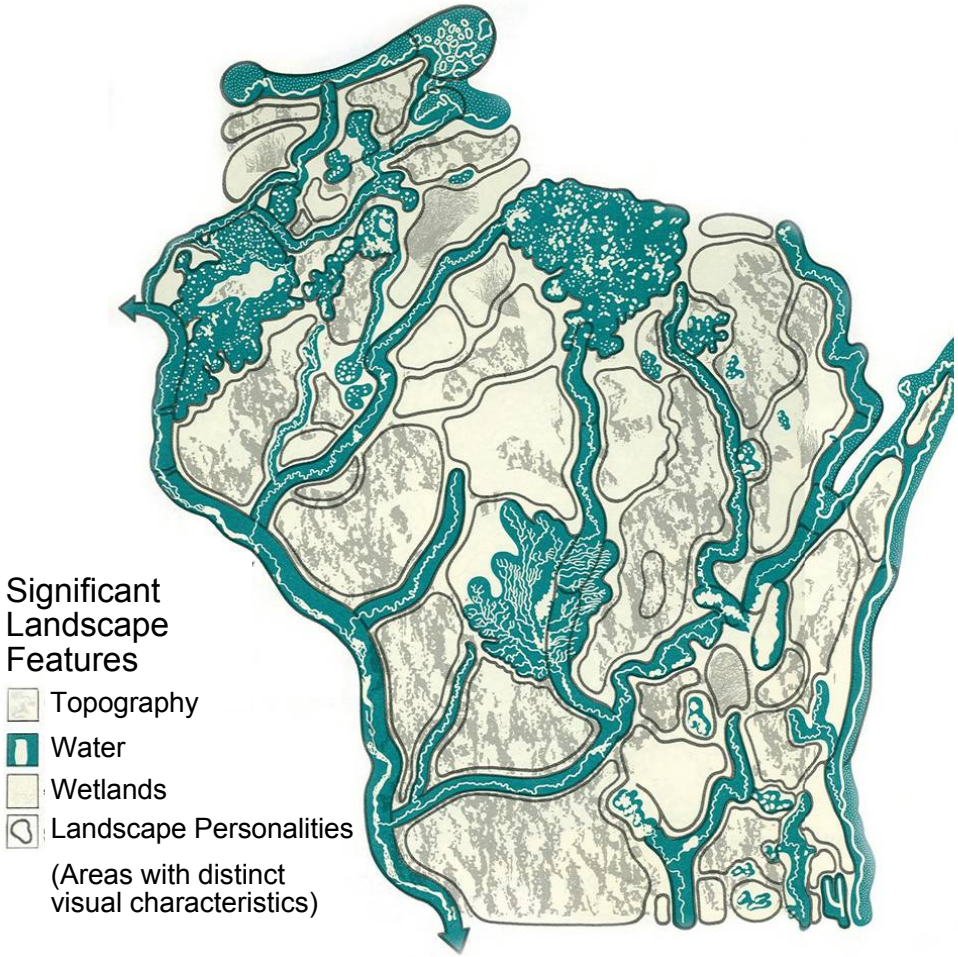



Significant Features in Wisconsin

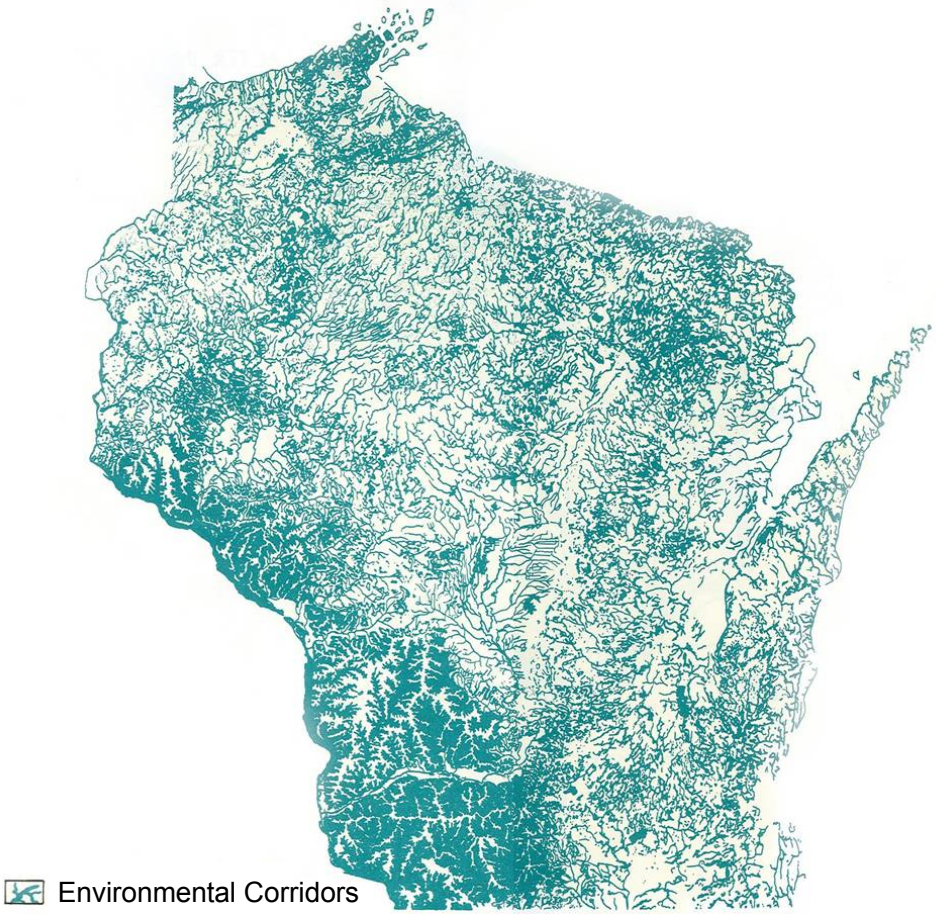



Water & Wetland in Wisconsin

# Wisconsin Resources



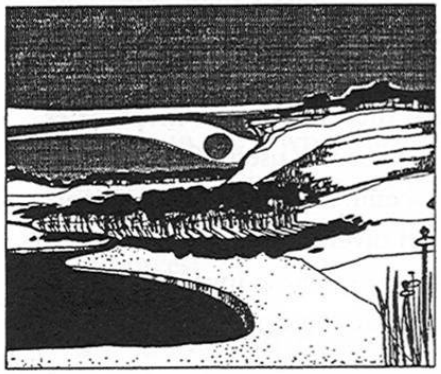

Distinct Landscape Character in Wisconsin




Environmental Corridors in Wisconsin

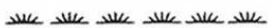
# Corridor Character

## Surface Resources



***Water***

*All navigable waters in Wisconsin belong to the public. Kept clean, water offers vast acreages of resource quality and open space within the corridor pattern.*



***Wetlands***

*Wetlands serve as headwater marshes, wildlife habitat and sources of natural springs, and should therefore be protected as a valuable surface within the corridor pattern.*

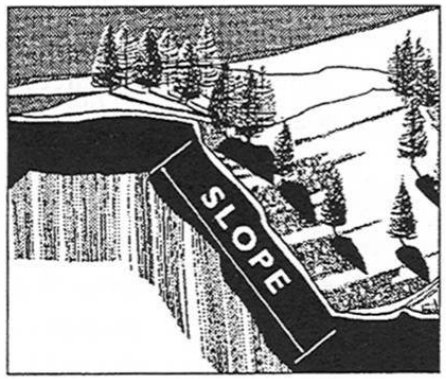
***Flood Plains***

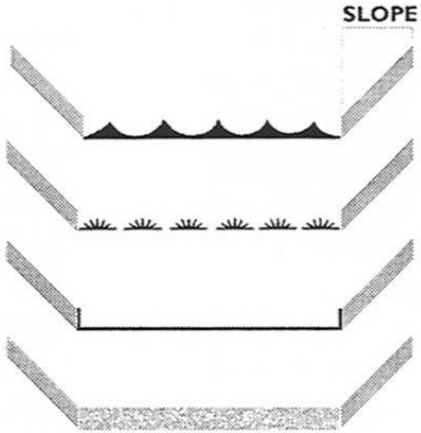
*The flood plains of Wisconsin offer exceptional recreational opportunities as well as natural channels for surface water drainage. Subject to flooding, these 'surface' patterns offer little opportunity for safe urban development and should be protected from such encroachments.*

***Sandy Soils***

*Sandy soils are often found adjacent to water 'surface' and offer outstanding areas for swimming if protected from second home and urban related development.*

## Slopes

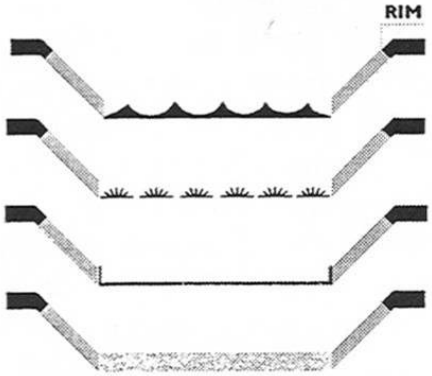



***Slopes***

*Most 'surfaces' are bracketed by slope and since slope is subject to various degrees of erosion slopes of 12.5 % or greater should be protected and stabilized to prevent silting and pollution of the 'surface' resources below.*

## Rims




***Rims***

*'Rims' of slope offer the very best opportunity to observe and contemplate the 'surface' resources. To assure as many Wisconsin citizens as possible have an opportunity to traverse the Wisconsin rims along bridal, hiking, bicycle trails or parkways, certain controls over rim development should be considered.*

## Water Oriented Corridor

*Water-oriented corridors are found along rivers, flood plains, and wetlands.*

## Landscape Oriented Corridor

*A landform oriented environmental corridor is composed of a combination of two closely related slopes which produce a ridge. It often provides vantage points for the aesthetic enjoyment of water-oriented corridors.*