

Environmental Resources

Vegetation

- Economic value
- Energy conservation
- Air quality
- Water pollutant reduction
- Increased property value
- Timber products

Steep Topography

- Building or farming on steep slopes creates erosion problems
- Provides contrasting scenery

Wetlands

- “Habitat for more species of plants and animals than any other type of landscape.”
- WDNR
- Store water to prevent flooding and protect water quality
- Wisconsin only has about half of the 10 million acres present in 1848

Hydric Soils

“Soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.” (NRCS)

- Support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation
- Role in identification of wetlands
 - Environmental conditions that create hydric soils also favor the formation of many types of wetlands

Water Resources

- Intermittent & Perennial streams
- Lakes, ponds
- Drainage ways
- Springs
- 70% of terrestrial animals use riparian corridors (NRCS)
- “Kept clean, water offers vast acreages of resource quality and open space within the corridor pattern.” ~ Phil Lewis

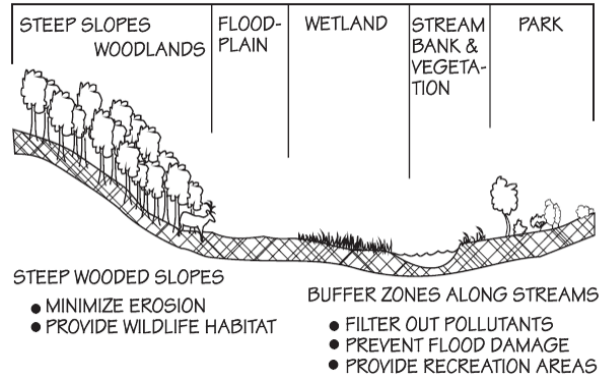
Public Lands

- City parks and open space
- County, State, and Federal land
- Recreational trails

Dane County Environmental Corridors

“Continuous systems of open space...that include environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use.”

(Dane County Dept. of Planning and Development, 1997)



Other Environmental Considerations

Groundwater Recharge

- The quality and supply of drinking water is dependent on our groundwater and its recharge
- 100% of Dane County’s drinking water comes from groundwater
- A majority of Fitchburg land has high infiltration opportunities

Prime Farmland

- Protecting our food source and agricultural opportunities
- Best Soil for Ag based on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ratings: Ag Groups 1 and 2 (Out of 8)

Natural Heritage Inventory – WDNR

- Rare or declining species
- High quality or rare natural communities
- Unique and significant natural features and special geologic features

Cultural Resources

“Linking natural and cultural resources into meaningful patterns provides the foundation for fostering a more holistic and comprehensive understanding of a region. Such comprehension is the precursor for sustainability, high quality of life, sense of place, integration of art and life, diversity and options from which to choose, and provides the basis for education and tourism.” ~Phil Lewis

- Archeological trails/sites
- Historic buildings/sites
- Historic mines/quarries
- Territorial roads
- Lead trails
- Railroad corridors

Scenic Resource Inventory

Benefits of Scenic Resources:

- Higher property values
- Improved personal well-being
- Increased tourism revenue
- Sense of place