

**ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE
TASK FORCE AGENDA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017
7:00 PM
BOARD ROOM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE**

Roll Call

1. Consideration of approval of Minutes of the June 1, 2017 Meeting
2. Review and Discussion of Draft Report Sections
3. Discussion of Key Action Items and Budgets
4. Adjourn

Mike Einweck, Public Works Director

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**VILLAGE OF HARTLAND
ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE
TASK FORCE MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017
7:00 PM
BOARD ROOM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE**

Present: Mike Einweck, Tim Hallquist, Courtney Marschalek, David Pride and Carol Zahorik.

Excused: David deCourcy-Bower and Michelle Bonness

Motion to nominate a Chairperson Pro-Tem for tonight's meeting in the absence of Chairperson David deCourcy-Bower

Motion (Marschalek/Zahorik) to nominate Tim Hallquist as Chairperson Pro-Tem for tonight's meeting. Carried (5-0).

Roll Call

1. Consideration of approval of Minutes of the May 4, 2017 Meeting

Motion (Marschalek/Pride) to approve the Minutes of May 4, 2017. Carried (4-0-1). Zahorik abstained.

2. Review of Evaluation Summaries

The task force reviewed the summary submitted by David deCourcy-Bower.

Page by page discussion:

- Cover page: Add a legend to the "Village Overview" section for the dots and squares, identifying which area the number stands for (i.e. 1 = Centennial Park).
- Centennial Park – Page 1: In the "Proposed Actions" section, add signage with information about the environmental corridor and invasive species. Education is important and we should put it in every park, even if there is not a major environmental corridor.
- Northwest Park – Page 2: This area is considered a low-priority.
- Hartbrook Park & Hartbrook West – Page 3: Straighten or relocate the park benches, which are tipping due to the peat in the area next to the Bark River. This will probably be done by the DPW as regular maintenance. There was some discussion regarding a chip path close to

the river. However, that was deemed a low priority as it is preferred that people stay on the paved path.

- Bark River Park – Page 4: Because this park is close to the downtown business owners, there is a potential to have businesses provide sponsorship opportunities. A number of businesses sponsor the softball teams that play at the ball field.
- Penbrook Park – Page 5: Clarification was made regarding cutting of buckthorn. Cutting is proposed 10 – 15 feet around significant trees and the path areas. Some areas of buckthorn may not be totally cleared in order to leave a buffer area for the adjacent homeowners.

Add educational signage to this section.

It was suggested that a sign be placed at the private property line to notify hikers of the public/private border. Some Willow Bluff residents' property lines go as far as the middle of the swamp. There is a well-used path in this area which is on private property.

Mike Einweck stated that typically, it's up to the private property owners to put up a sign on their property. The task force decided that using the limited dollars allocated to the task force for this type of sign may not be the best use. It was suggested to notify the property owners and leave it up to them to put up signage.

- Nottingham Park – Page 6: There were no additional suggestions.
- Cottonwood Wayside – Village Owned – Page 7: It was clarified that NGO properties meant non-governmental organization or non-profit. No additional comments were made by the task force.
- Cottonwood Wayside – NGO Owned – Page A: No additional comments.
- Maple Wayside – NGO Owned – Page B: Since this is owned by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the task force will not put any dollars toward the proposed actions.

The Ice Age Trail is working with some Arrowhead students on making some board walks. The Village DPW is housing the boards for the project and there will be two work days during the summer and fall to work on the board walks.

Motion (Marschalek/Zahorik) to approve the Evaluation Summary, with the notes that were added during tonight's review. Carried (5-0).

3. Update on ECOS Budget Estimates/Costs

The task force reviewed the signage costs submitted by David deCourcy-Bower and the clearing costs submitted by Michelle Bonness.

After reviewing Ms. Bonness' cost and time estimate, they noted that there is a lot of work, time and cost involved. They also noted that care needs to be taken with the chemicals as far as not killing vegetation that you want to keep in the area. It can be dangerous to have amateurs do the work. Volunteers/homeowners would need some professional guidance.

Mike Einweck reported that he received two phone calls last week from residents of the Village. One stated that the World Health Organization has declared Round Up as a carcinogen and they were totally against any spraying in the parks. Shortly after that Mr. Einweck received a call asking why the Village isn't spraying all the weeds in Nixon Park, clearing out the pond area and clearing out near the railroad tracks. Two very different viewpoints. Mr. Einweck suggested that they can come to the Park Board to express their concerns.

The Village did have the fields sprayed last Tuesday and it was posted on our website saying that was going to take place.

Mr. Einweck asked the task force if they want to support the idea of using chemicals to clear out invasive species. The general consensus was yes, but they would want a professional involved who is knowledgeable. The task force recommendation will go to the Park Board and they will put their comments on it before it goes to the Village Board.

The task force discussed that they would like some additional information on the use of chemicals. Some on the task force were not in favor of using chemicals on invasive species, while others thought it was necessary. It was questioned if the money and the chemicals used on eradicating invasive species is worth it.

The task force would like to know more about the chemicals that would be used. If Round Up is used on a stump, how long does it last before the vegetation becomes dormant or new growth sprouts up?

Accidental overspray to other vegetation can be a problem. If someone sprays an herbicide right before it rains, it will wash away and kill adjacent vegetation. We have to be careful of adjacent property owners, children and pets going through the parks. Whatever we come up with has to be cognizant of those things. It was suggested closing the sprayed areas for a period of time, however,

Mike Einweck stated that it would be very difficult to do. It was mentioned that the Penbrook Park area that is proposed to be sprayed is an area where not many people go anyway.

Mike Einweck wanted more clarification on page 5 for the last two bullet points in Proposed Action.

- Selective clearing around large oaks to maintain their health would probably be to clear 10 – 15 feet around each tree trunk or if you do the drip line, it would be 50 – 60 feet.
- Clear buckthorn to open up accessibility of conservation areas and wetlands. The task force realized that if all the areas of Penbrook that have been discussed at previous meetings are sprayed, a large amount of chemicals would be used.

The task force would like to get more information on the chemicals and the feasibility of doing them. If invasive species are cut and chemicals are not used, they grow back thicker. That's not good either.

Tim Hallquist would like to find out how dangerous the chemicals are before he has an opinion on using them in the environmental corridors.

Mr. Einweck asked Tim Hallquist, "What would you like to see, as a long-time Park Board member, for the treatment of athletic fields and the general parkland?" Mr. Hallquist believes the Village needs to use herbicides in the parks because that is what the use is for.

When the herbicide that is used in the parks is dry, the contractor who sprays in our parks has told Village staff that you can walk on it. After 24 hours, enough time has taken place and it is O.K. to cut off the top portion of the weed when you mow the grass. The herbicide will still be effective on the weeds.

There is concern about the herbicide getting into the two large ponds at Penbrook Park.

Mr. Hallquist stated that on this task force, he is mixed about using or not using herbicides. Part of greenspace is to let it go wild, but it is a problem because there are invasive plants there. It would be nice to have a path through Penbrook. He would like more information on the chemicals.

Carol Zahorik thought that clear cutting all invasive species may not be necessary. Spraying is supposed to be done 200 feet away from water's edge. Some of the trees are closer than 200 feet away. Perhaps cutting and pulling

would be done in those areas. The task force was not sure how long Round Up or similar herbicides stay toxic to the touch after painting/spraying on invasives.

It was discussed that volunteer groups would need to work on cutting and pulling at the right time before plants go to seed. And each year after that they would have to go out for a number of years to totally eradicate certain invasives. It will be hard to keep volunteers coming back year after year and getting them out at the right time.

Regarding Mr. deCourcy-Bower's suggestion for bending the aluminum sign, Mike Einweck thought it should be cut to have three separate signs on a post. Mr. deCourcy-Bower recommends an 8" x 8" post, which is a very large post. Mike Einweck suggested a 4" x 4" post.

Summary

The task force would like more clarification from Michelle Bonness on the use of chemicals. Do we need to use protective clothing? What can be done to prevent mistakes?

The task force document we prepare is probably going to have some appendices regarding the signage and chemical spraying, which we will have to add. We need more detailed information before we can do that. This discussion should be on the next ECOS agenda.

Tim Hallquist suggested that Ms. Bonness get a more official description/published information of the chemicals (perhaps from the company's website) and search for some additional research. The task force members should email Mike Einweck with any questions for Ms. Bonness regarding the chemicals and he will forward them to her, or members can email her directly.

Carol Zahorik will be excused for the July 6 ECOS meeting.

4. Adjourn

Motion (Marschalek/Zahorik) to adjourn. Carried (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Recording Secretary,

Lynn Meyer
Deputy Clerk

Village of Hartland - ECOS Taskforce Report

Introduction

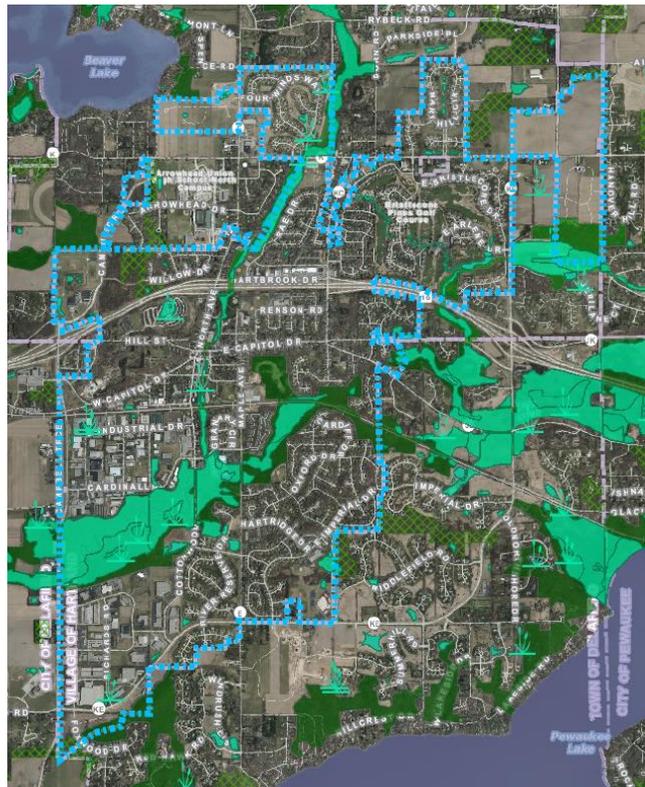
The Village of Hartland Environmental Corridor and Open Space (ECOS) Task Force was formed in July 2016. The Environmental Corridor and Open Space (ECOS) taskforce was created under RESOLUTION NO. 05-9-2016-01. The ECOS task force was formed in response to community engagement and advocacy that raised concerns that the Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource areas within the Village of Hartland were being degraded with invasive species.

What are Environmental Corridors?

As stated in the Village of Hartland Comprehensive Development Plan, Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource areas are a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base, including lakes, rivers, and streams and their associated floodlands, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat areas; rugged terrain consisting of slopes 12 percent or greater; wet, poorly drained or organic soils; and significant geological formations.

Why should they be protected?

By protecting these elements of the natural resource base, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, wildlife population enhanced, and continued opportunities provided for scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits. They also maintain a high level of environmental quality in the area, protect the natural beauty of the area, and provide valuable recreation opportunities. Preservation techniques may avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems such as flood damage, poor drainage, wet basements, failing pavements and other structures, excessive infiltration of clear waters into sanitary sewers, and water pollution.



Location of Environmental Corridors within the Village of Hartland (Waukesha County GIS, 2017)

Purpose:

The purpose of the ECOS taskforce is to identify, evaluate, and plan for the protection of environmental corridors and other natural areas within the Village of Hartland.

Objectives:

The objectives of the ECOS taskforce are to preserve sufficient high-quality environmental corridors and open space lands to:

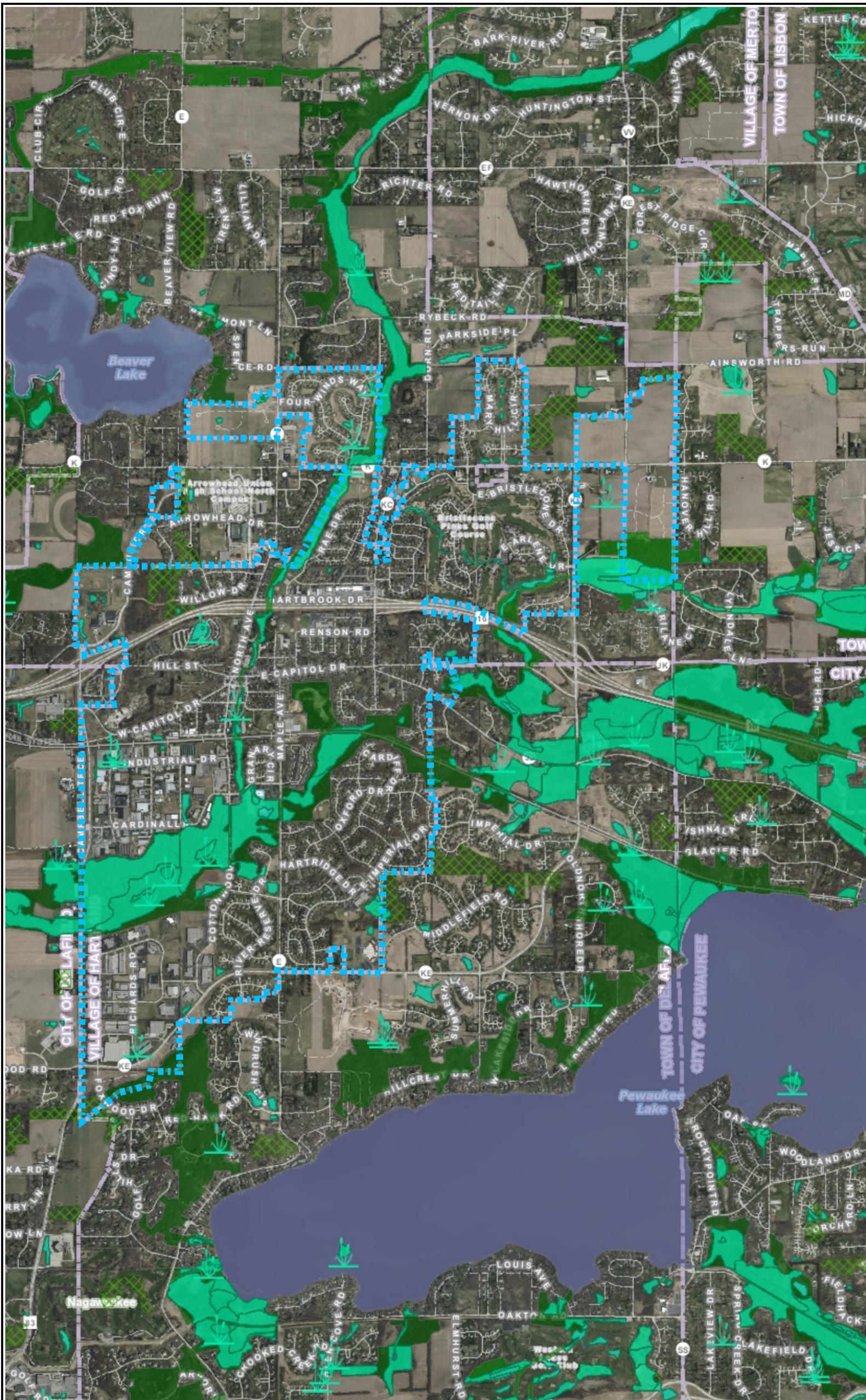
1. Natural Resource Protection - Protect the underlying and sustaining natural resource base to enhance the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the Hartland area.
2. Recreational Use - Provide residents of the Hartland area a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities in areas that have high environmental, scenic, and wildlife habitat value.
3. Community Benefit - Ensure the maintenance of natural resources that provide value by reducing flood damage, replenishing drinking water supplies, stabilizing steep slopes, reducing soil erosion, and providing clean air.
4. Quality of Life – Provide an environmental amenity to the community that supports community engagement and involvement, a sense of community pride, and improves the overall quality of life in the Village of Hartland.

Duties:

The resolution states that the duties of the Environmental Corridor and Open Space Task Force shall be as follows.

- a) Identify Village owned, other publically or non-profit held and privately held parcels of land that contain stands of woods, wetlands, open fields and other varied environmental corridors within the boundaries of the Village of Hartland.
- b) Assess the condition of those environmental areas with priority on assessing the condition of such environmental areas owned by the Village of Hartland.
- c) Develop and recommend to the Village of Hartland Village Board or Village of Hartland Park Board, as appropriate, a written plan of improvements or enhancements, including proposed budgets, for the environmental areas owned by the Village.
- d) Develop and present to the Village of Hartland recommendations for improvements or enhancements, including proposed budgets, for the environmental areas owned by other parties. If approved by the Village, present said improvements, enhancements and budgets to the various parties for their consideration.
- e) If authorized by the Village, develop and implement work days or other activities to implement the approved improvements or enhancements on Village-owned lands.

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas within the Village of Hartland



Legend

- Retired Plats**
 - Assessor Plat
 - Condo Plat
 - CSM
 - Subdivision Plat
- DNR Wetlands <
- DNR Wetlands >
- Environmental Corridors**
 - Water
 - Isolated Natural
 - Isolated Natural
 - Primary Env. Co
 - Primary Env. Co
 - Secondary Env.
 - Secondary Env.
- SimultaneousCor**
 - Assessor Plat
 - CSM
 - Condo Plat
 - Subdivision Plat

0 2,666.67feet

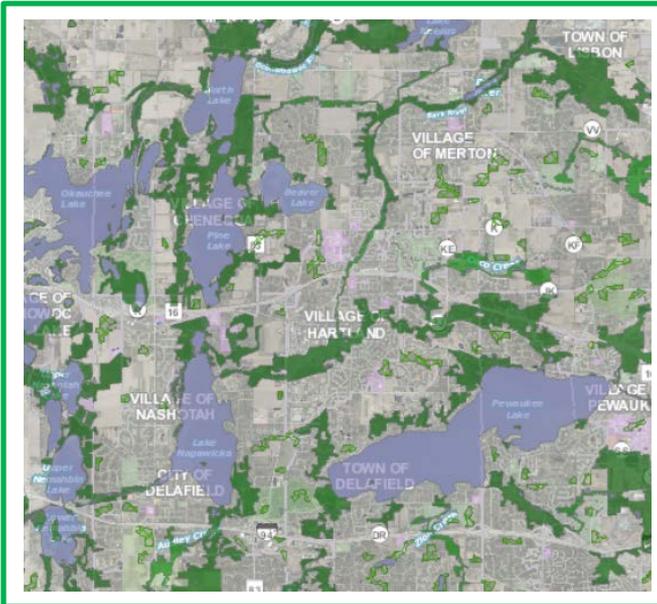
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Notes:



Printed: 7/31/2017

ECOS Taskforce – Village of Hartland



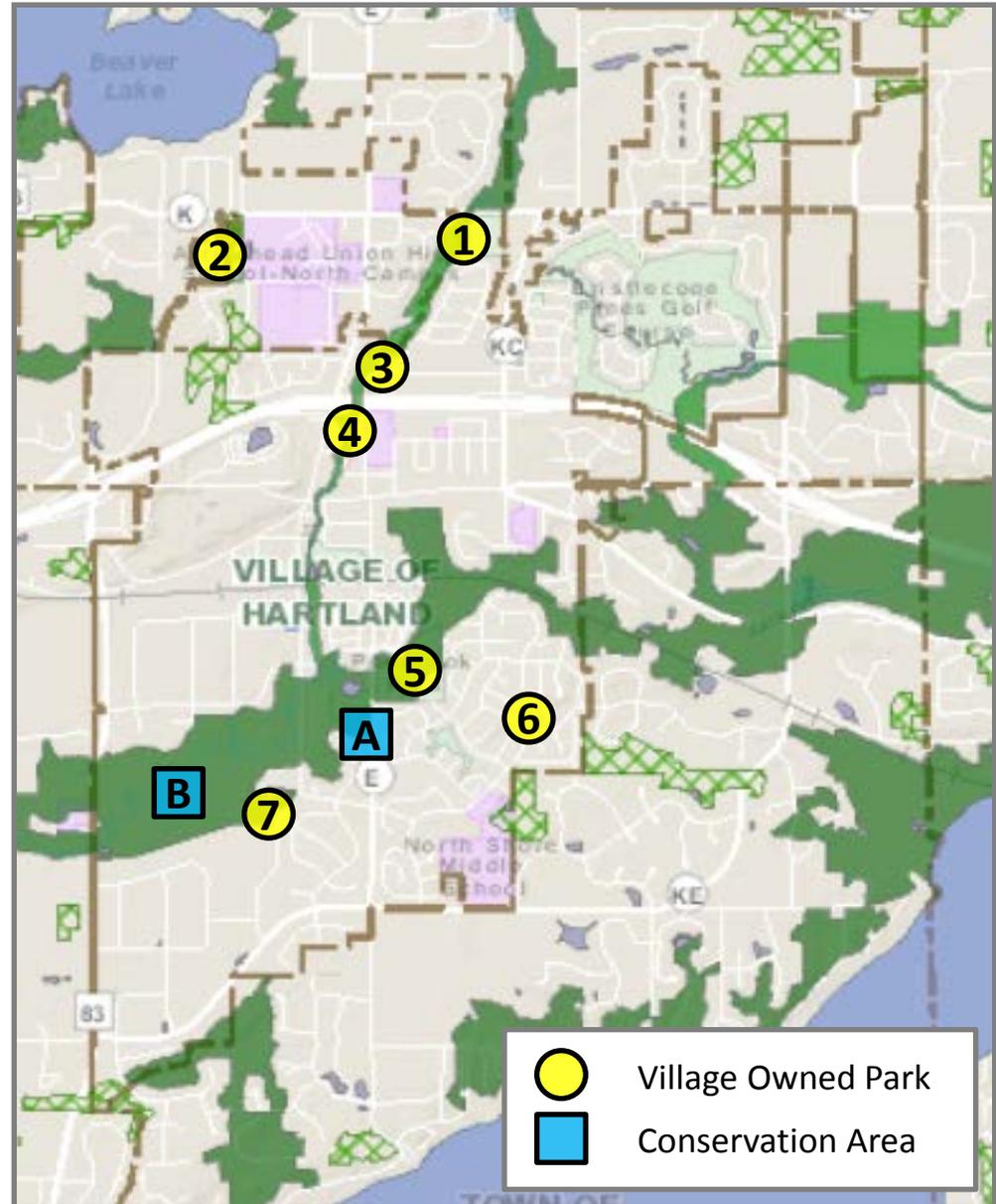
Village Overview

Area: ~4.5 square miles

ECOS Features: Environmental Corridor (~400 Acres), Wetlands, Bark River, Oak Woodlands

Focus Areas

- 1) Centennial Park
 - 2) Northwest Park
 - 3) Hartbrook Park
 - 4) Bark River Park
 - 5) Penbrook Park
 - 6) Nottingham Park
 - 7) Cottonwood Wayside
 - A) Cottonwood Wayside – NGO* Owned
 - B) Maple Wayside – NGO* Owned
- * NGO – Non-governmental organization



-  Village Owned Park
-  Conservation Area

Centennial Park



Key Attributes

Classification: Community Park

Area: 14.9 acres

ECOS Features:

Environmental Corridors (~1.2 Acres)

Bark River

Recreational Amenities:

Developed Park Areas (ballfield, playground, restrooms)

Paved trail (Ice Age Trail) adjacent to natural areas along Bark River

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Strip of primary environmental corridor along Bark River
- Bark River located on west side of Park and includes areas of natural habitat
- Some invasive species along Bark River (buckthorn and bamboo)

Recreational Features:

- Paved trail (Ice Age Trail) adjacent to Bark River
- Connections to Bark River Greenway and boardwalk to the south

Adjacent Land Use:

- Residential to south, Bark River and floodways to north and west, Residential/light commercial to east

Opportunity Uses

- Access point for Bark River
- Select viewing points cleared to allow view of River

Proposed Actions

- Selective clearing of invasive brush to support view of Bark River - keep areas of natural habitat undisturbed
- Clean-up of trash/garbage along the river way
- Planting of buffer grasses along the west side of the paved trail where mowed grasses are currently present.
- Provide signage related to environmental corridors and invasive species

Northwest Park



Key Attributes

Classification: Undeveloped Park

Area: 5.5 acres

ECOS Features:

No significant features

Recreational Amenities:

Currently undeveloped

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Hills and aspen / pine woodlands
- Stormwater retention pond
- No environmental corridors
- Some invasive species (buckthorn)

Recreational Features:

- Undeveloped trails
- Wildlife viewing

Adjacent Land Use:

- Residential to north and west, Campus Drive to east and south

Opportunity Uses

- Wildlife and bird sanctuary

Proposed Actions

- Potential to install wildlife / bird boxes to encourage passive use as bird sanctuary

Hartbrook Park



Key Attributes

Classification: Community Park

Area: 10.1 acres

ECOS Features:

Environmental Corridors (~4 Acres)

Bark River

Recreational Amenities:

Developed Park Areas (ballfield, playground, restrooms, picnic areas)

Paved trail (Ice Age Trail) and unpaved trail in natural area adjacent to Bark River

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Well maintained and cleared woodlands – clear efforts have been made to minimize invasive species
- Scenic overlook of the Bark River
- Primary environmental corridor and Bark River floodway
- Native flora and wildflower near river

Recreational Features:

- Paved trail (Ice Age Trail) and unpaved trail adjacent to Bark River
- Connections to Bark River Greenway and boardwalk to the north

Adjacent Land Use:

- Residential to north and west, developed park and Bark River to east

Opportunity Uses

- Park could serve for educational purposes – Bark River/Habitat signage could be present across river in formal park
- Ideal park for environmental education of younger children
- Possible location for art-walk along Ice Age Trail

Proposed Actions

- Provide educational signage and encourage exploration of environmental areas
- Engage with adjacent property owners
- Find longer-term “sponsor” to help with park maintenance
- Provide signage related to environmental corridors and invasive species

Bark River Park



Key Attributes

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Area: 13.9 acres

ECOS Features:

Environmental Corridors (~3.6 Acres)

Recreational Amenities:

Developed Park Areas (ballfield, restrooms)

Paved trails (Ice Age Trail) and unpaved trail in natural area adjacent to Bark River

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Area of primary environmental corridor
- Area of woodland adjacent to Bark River
- Mulched trail along Bark River (maintenance is a challenge)

Recreational Features:

- Formal paved trail (Ice Age Trail) and benches along river further to the South of the park for viewing the Bark River
- Woodchip pathways connect to Ice Age Trail, but are challenging to maintain as they get washed away
- Pedestrian bridges across the Bark River link formal park to environmental areas

Adjacent Land Use:

- Residential to west, village parkway to south, school to east and Hwy 16 to north.

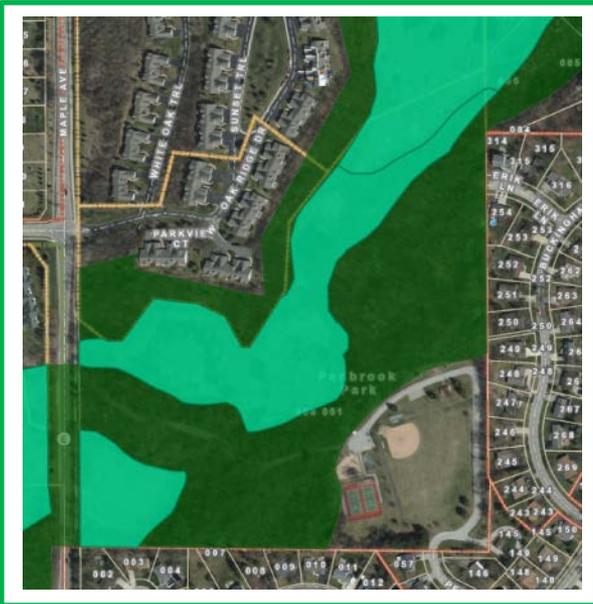
Opportunity Uses

- Potential launch point for Kayaks into Bark River – challenges navigating under the culvert under E. Capitol Drive to south as the river gets shallow and rocky

Proposed Actions

- Improved signage to provide information about environmental areas and Bark River floodway
- Engage with Village of Hartland BID to investigate sponsorship opportunities and/or for BID members to support maintenance
- Provide signage related to environmental corridors and invasive species

Penbrook Park



Key Attributes

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Area: 28.8 acres

ECOS Features:

Environmental Corridors (~24.8 Acres)

Upland Oak Woodlands (15.9 Acres)

Wetlands (~8.9 Acres)

Recreational Amenities:

Developed Park Area (ballfield, playground)

Formal and informal trails that lead to wetlands and Ice Age Trail along Maple Rd

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Significant area of primary environmental corridor
- Oak and hickory woodlands, wetlands, and cattail marshes
- Uplands have significant presence of invasive species (buckthorn)
- Some significant trees in distress / exhibiting signs of disease
- Exceptional native flora observed around marshes
- Provides stormwater management for Hartridge Subdivision

Recreational Features:

- Limited formal trails and public access into conservancy areas
- Paved pathway connects playing field and playground to Maple Ave and Ice Age trail on west-side of park
- Current informal trail network difficult to access and walk
- Trash/garbage presence and indications of improper uses

Adjacent Land Use:

- Private properties of Hartridge to north, east and south, Oak Ridge to northwest and Maple road to west

Opportunity Uses

- Increase ability to view wildlife areas and wetland areas
- Formalize trail network and provide access into conservation area
- Natural extension of the Ice Age Trail and Ice Age Wetlands
- Improve the overall health of the woodlands and conservation area

Proposed Actions

- Improve informal trail network on public lands (remove trash, wood chip)
- Provide scenic overlook of wetland areas accessible from formal park
- Clear buckthorn to open up accessibility of conservation areas and wetlands
- Selective clearing around large oaks to maintain health of large oaks
- Provide signage related to environmental corridors and invasive species
- Engage with adjacent private property owners

Cottonwood Wayside – Village Owned



Key Attributes

Classification: Conservancy Area

Area: 23.3 acres

ECOS Features:

Environmental Corridors (~13.7 Acres)

Upland Oak Woodlands (~11.8 Acres)

Wetlands (~1.9 Acres)

Recreational Amenities:

Covered Picnic Area and scenic overlooks

Formal and informal trails that lead to Ice Age Wetlands

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Significant area of primary environmental corridor
- Oak woodlands adjacent to Ice Age Wetlands (owned by various)
- Significant efforts to clear invasive species (buckthorn)
- Man-made wetland area (stormwater pond) provides stormwater management for Industrial Park to south
- Wildlife encouraged (Chimney swift tower, owl/bird boxes), along with natural wildlife habitat and downed trees

Recreational Features:

- Extensive formal trails and public access into Ice Age Wetlands
- Woodchip pathways connect to Ice Age Wetlands and across street to Ice Age Trail and Maple Wayside
- Limited formal signage and information along trail

Adjacent Land Use:

- Industrial Park to south, Ice Age Wetlands to north and west, Cottonwood road to east

Opportunity Uses

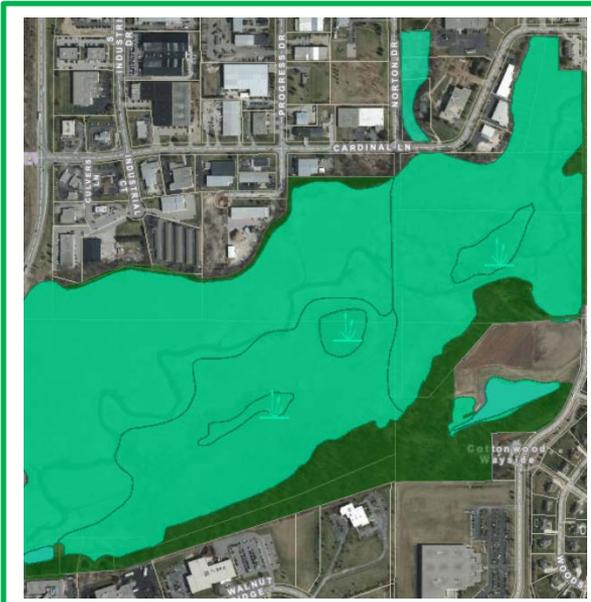
- Increase use of wetland / stormwater pond
- Access point for Bark River
- Convert farm field into wildlife prairie
- Expand trail system around retention pond
- Expand trail system to the north to connect with the WCLC property

Proposed Actions

- Signage/bulletin board – provide information about events
- Coordination with IATA/WCLC/Village of Hartland/WDNR Forestry
- Engage with surrounding industrial properties (corporate engagement)
- Develop plan to expand trail network and link to surrounding non-governmental organization (NGO) properties

Cottonwood Wayside – NGO Owned

A



Key Attributes

Classification: Conservancy Area

Area: ~160 acres

ECOS Features:

Environmental Corridors (~160 Acres)

Upland Oak Woodlands (~14.5 Acres)

Wetlands (~145.5 Acres)

Recreational Amenities:

Scenic overlooks

Formal and informal trails in Ice Age

Wetlands

Boardwalk

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Significant area of primary environmental corridor
- Oak woodlands and Ice Age Wetlands (owned by various)
- Significant efforts to clear invasive species (buckthorn)
- Unique oak wood island in wetlands area, springs along boardwalk
- Wildlife encouraged (owl/bird boxes), along with natural wildlife habitat and downed trees
- Bark river runs through wetlands

Recreational Features:

- Extensive formal trails and boardwalks within Ice Age Wetlands
- Woodchip pathways in uplands connect to Ice Age Wetlands and Village Parking lot
- Limited formal signage and information along trail

Adjacent Land Use:

- Industrial Parks to north and south, cottonwood road to east, Hwy 83 to west

Opportunity Uses

- Formalize the trail that lead to the Bark River and use of benches that have scenic overlook

Proposed Actions

- Coordination with IATA/WCLC/Village of Hartland/WDNR Forestry
- Engage with surrounding industrial properties (corporate engagement)
- Improve signage and update to highlight environmental features
- Improve condition of boardwalk in places
- Perform burns/maintenance according to restoration plan for the area

Maple Wayside – NGO Owned

B



Key Attributes

Classification: Conservancy Area

Area: 28.9 acres

ECOS Features:

Environmental Corridors (~39.2 Acres)

Upland Oak Woodlands (~9.0 Acres)

Wetlands (~30.2 Acres)

Recreational Amenities:

Scenic overlooks

Ice Age Trail

Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)

Environmental Features:

- Significant area of primary environmental corridor
- Oak woodlands adjacent to Ice Age Wetlands (owned by IATA)
- Some efforts to clear invasive species (buckthorn)
- Excellent example of glacial moraine
- Bark River runs through northern edge of the wetlands

Recreational Features:

- Ice Age Trail along south side of conservancy is poorly maintained and boardwalk sections needs some repairs
- Scenic overlook of wetlands from top of the moraine

Adjacent Land Use:

- Residential to south, Cottonwood Rd to west, Maple Rd to east and residential to the north.

Opportunity Uses

- Educational use for Ice Age geology (moraine)

Proposed Actions

- Ice Age Trail need maintenance
- Selective clearing around large oaks to maintain health of large oaks
- Maintain the handicap deck overlook
- Repair/maintain signage