

**ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE
TASK FORCE AGENDA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017
7:00 PM
BOARD ROOM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVE**

Roll Call

1. Consideration of approval of Minutes of the August 17, 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

Notice: Please note that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Darlene Igl, WCPC/CMC, Village Clerk, at 262/367-2714. The Municipal Building is handicap accessible.

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

Present: Mike Einweck, Courtney Marschalek, David deCourcy-Bower, Michelle Bonness, David Pride and Carol Zahorik.

Excused: none.

Unexcused: Tim Hallquist.

Roll Call

1. Consideration of approval of Minutes of the June 1, 2017 Meeting

Motion (Bonness/Marschalek) to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2017. Carried (6-0).

2. Review and Discussion of Draft Report Sections

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

Page by page discussion:

Add - What can I do to help? Tie in the letter prepared by Marschalek.

3. Discussion of Key Action Items and Budgets

1 – Review Zoning Code

Use Waukesha County as an example – attach as appendix
Upland Conservancy Overlay
Comprehensive Plan consistency

2 – Form on-going ECOS group to implement

Monitor, organize projects – with Village authorization

3 – Engagement and Education of the Public

Signage, Materials - requires funds
Private owner information – requires funds
Volunteer days / Initiatives
Coordination with IATA, WCLC, Village DPW, and Park Board

- 4 – Implement Task Force Recommendations
 - Initial Focus on Penbrook Park Action Items
 - Other priority issues/urgent items
 - Develop rules of use with herbicides.

Have a professional graphic designer assist with the information items.

Use of herbicides – use of low percentage herbicide like triclopyr, has 2 types (aquatic and land based – non-aquatic). Volunteers could apply to the cut stumps while a hired professional would apply the foliar spray herbicides. A plan prepared by an ecologist could assist with the removal efforts performed by the volunteers and used as guides by the next group to implement the recommendations.

Short discussion about where the use of funds would go. Spend dollars on making signage and informational flyers. Need estimates from graphic designers. Courtney will get the company information on who did the signs outside the library. Reallocate the funds from this year to next year.

Citizen Jeff Pfannerstill, 1140 E. Capitol Drive, was present and made public comments on the discussion that took place. The plan was the most important part. If you start to clean up one acre, don't lose that one acre to begin working on the next three. Make sure the funds get allocated each year.

Discussion of the length the Task Force was created for and if there is a need to request the Village Board extend the time allocated. There was a consensus that the Task Force needed extra time to complete their work. Motion (Marschalek/deCourcy Bower) to request an extension to the end of the year. Carried (6-0).

Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 21st at 7pm. Park Board meeting would be on Monday, October 2nd at 7pm.

4. Adjourn

Motion (Zahorik/Marschalek) to adjourn. Carried (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Recording Secretary,

Michael Einweck
Director of Public Works

Dear Hartland homeowner,

Out of (x number of) properties in Hartland, (y number) lay within an environmental corridor. Your property is one of these lucky few!

An Environmental Corridor you say? What is that?

Environmental corridors are connected natural areas that possess especially scenic or protected elements. This could mean rivers, woodlands, wetlands or other unique features. The environmental corridors in Hartland were identified by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWPRC).

Oh, no. Do I have to do extra work because my property is in a corridor?

Actually, in many ways it could mean *less* work. We want to preserve these areas as much as possible in their natural state. This means letting native trees and plants grow and NOT cutting them down in an attempt to increase lawn space (less mowing for you!). However, we encourage property owners to take a renewed interest in the uniqueness of being in a corridor and learn about what plant species are desirable and which are invasive. If, after learning more, you deem there are too many invasive plants on your property you may choose to take action.

How on earth will I learn about invasive species?!

Don't worry. We want to make this as painless as possible. Your neighbors (Brenda Buckthorn and Gina May Garlic-Mustard), are hosting an information session at their house on _____. On that date you will learn how to identify invasive species and what you and your neighbors can do to stop their spread. Plus, you and your neighbors can rave about how cool it is to be in a corridor!!

Ugh. I'm an introvert. Do I really have to go to this?

Of course not!! There are many other ways you can learn about how to be an awesome steward in an environmental corridor. The website we think has the best information for our region is: www.yettobedetermined.org. Not a computer fan? We can provide a paper copy of information if you contact us at 262-367-xxxx.

Hartland is a beautiful village in a truly scenic part of the state. Working together we can ensure that our community continues to shine for years to come. Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

The village? Our board? The woodland fairies?

Village of Hartland - ECOS Taskforce Report

Introduction

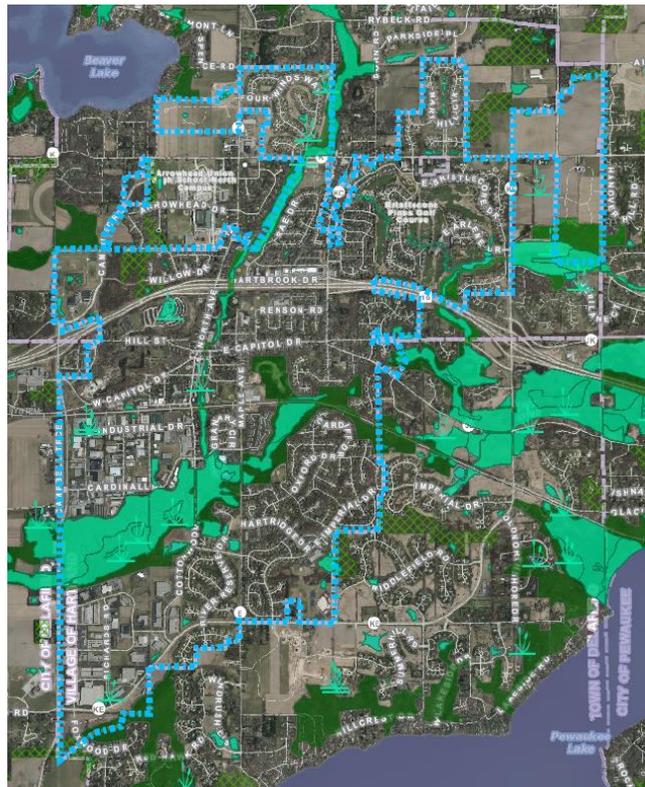
The Village of Hartland Environmental Corridor and Open Space (ECOS) Task Force was formed in July 2016. The Environmental Corridor and Open Space (ECOS) taskforce was created under RESOLUTION NO. 05-9-2016-01. The ECOS task force was formed in response to community engagement and advocacy that raised 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:

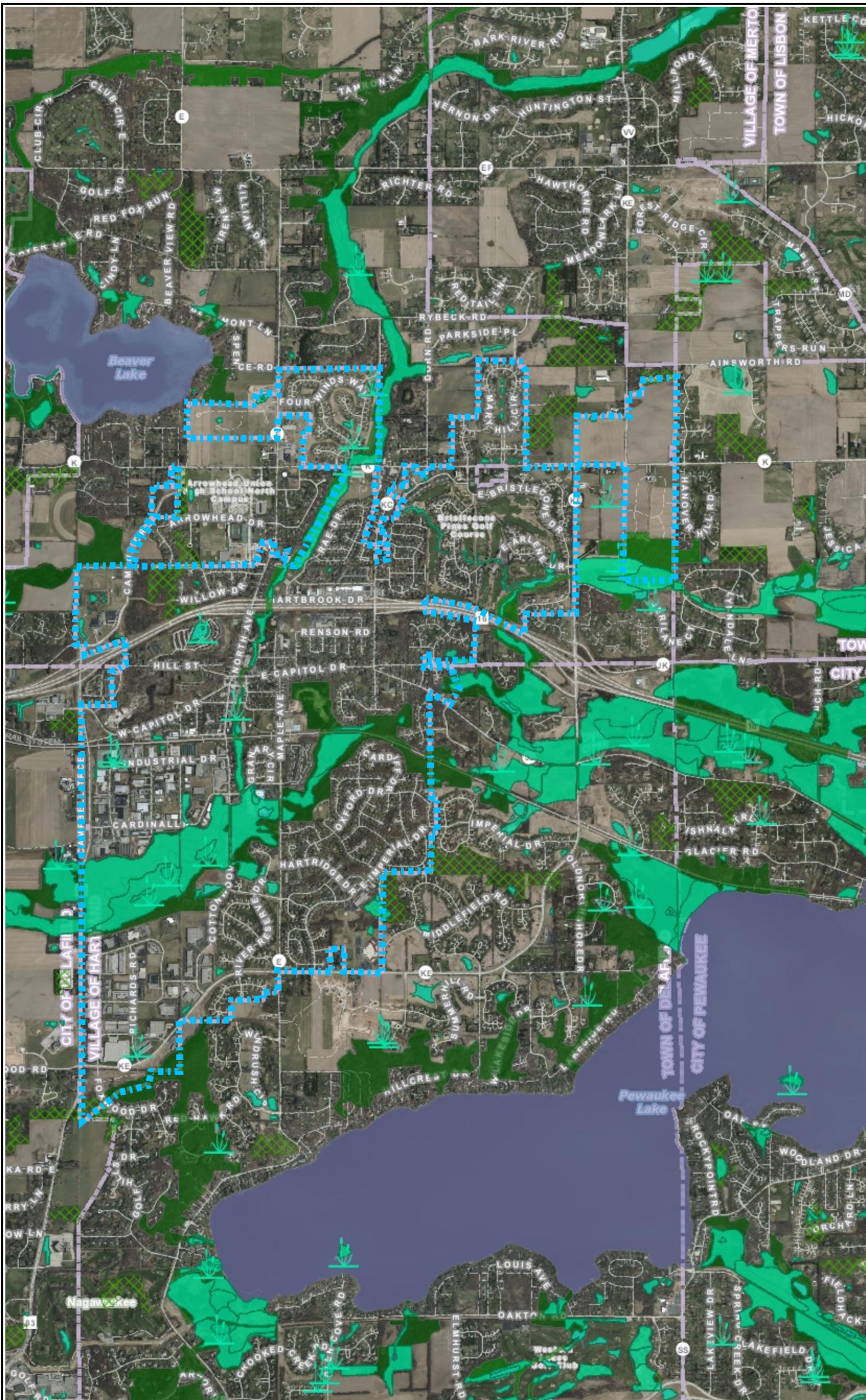
1. Natural Resource Protection - Protect the underlying and sustaining natural resource base to enhance the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the Hartland area.
2. Recreational Use - Provide residents of the Hartland area a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities 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

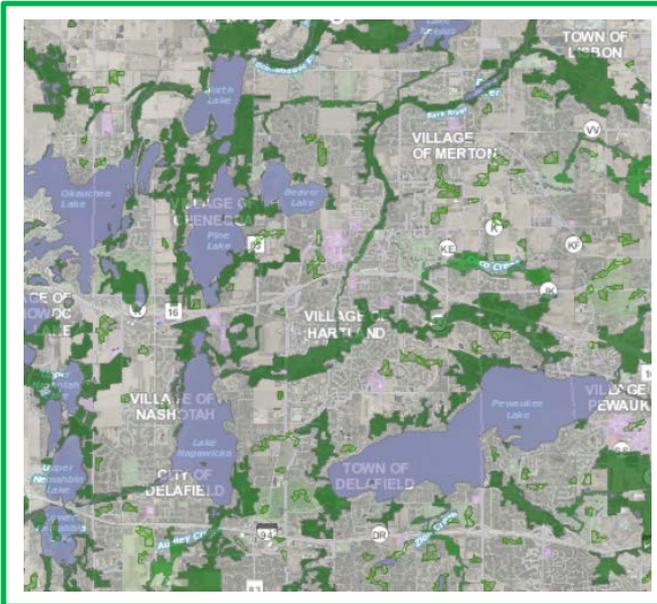
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Notes:



Printed: 7/31/2017

ECOS Taskforce – Village of Hartland



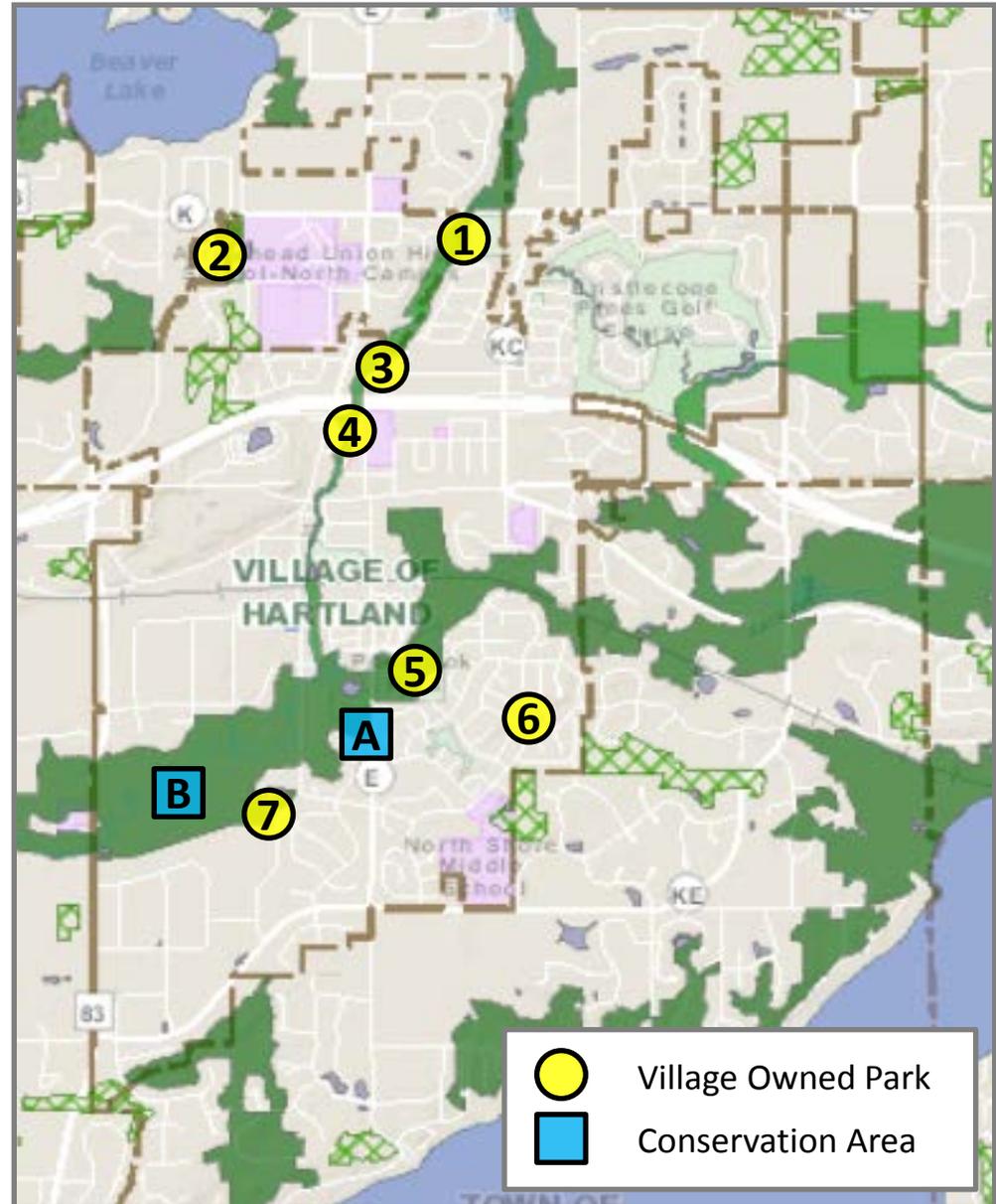
Village Overview

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



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

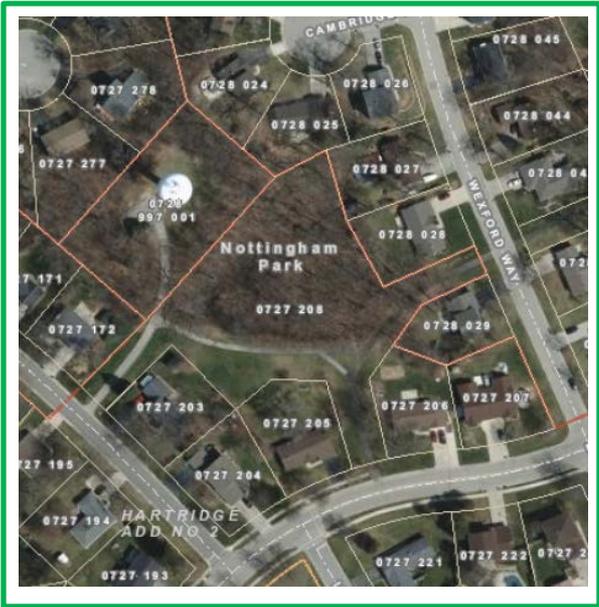
Opportunity Uses

- 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

Nottingham Park



Key Attributes
Classification: Mini Park
Area: 1.8 acres

ECOS Features:
Wooded Areas (~1 Acre)

Recreational Amenities:
Paved trails

<p>Current Conditions Assessment (2016/17)</p> <p>Environmental Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oak woodland• Degraded with significant presence of invasive species (buckthorn) <p>Recreational Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal trails and public access connect with Hartridge subdivision• No signage for park <p>Adjacent Land Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surrounded by private properties of Hartridge and Village of Hartland water tower
<p>Opportunity Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park currently serving intended purpose.
<p>Proposed Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited select clearing around large oaks• Engage with surrounding homeowners

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