

## **ELEMENT 5: NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, & CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This element will explore the various natural, agricultural, and cultural resources in the Town of Frog Creek and Washburn County including topography, soils, land cover, agricultural areas, water resources, sensitive resources, wetlands, floodplains, agricultural characteristics, and cultural and historic town resources. It is important to acknowledge these resources to make intelligent land use decisions, as they are directly related.

### **5.2 NATURAL RESOURCES**

#### **Importance of the Community Natural Resource Base**

The natural resource base of the Town of Frog Creek is directly interconnected to town land use. The community natural resource base impacts activities such as farming and forestry, as quality and quantity of natural resources directly influences the productivity and sustainability of land use activities. Residential development is greatly influenced by the presence of natural attributes such as woodlands, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, which attract both residents and visitors to the community. Furthermore, community economy is linked to revenues generated through tourist expenditures and agricultural productivity, both of which rely on the continued viability of the community natural resource base.

Due to the interconnectedness of land use and community natural resources, and the role natural resources play in defining community character, it is important that community planning emphasize resource sustainability and protection of sensitive environmental features.

The maintenance of resource quality in the future is directly related to land use. Impacts to air, land, wildlife and water are generated by every land use activity, and it is the cumulative effect of these activities which can create environmental problems.

#### **Background**

The Town of Frog Creek encompasses approximately 45,824 acres and is located in the northeastern corner of Washburn County. Frog Creek was part of Veazie, Spooner, Minong, and Wolf Townships before it became a township in 1908. Frog Creek was named for the many frogs in the area.

#### **Topography**

The Town of Frog Creek is located within the Central Plains geographic province of Wisconsin; a region characterized by low to moderate topographic relief. Surface elevations in Frog Creek range from a maximum of approximately 1370 feet (derived), in the Totogatic Highlands, to a minimum of approximately 1014 feet (derived) at the Totagatic River near the western border with the Town of Minong. Topography and slope are depicted in Map 5.1.

#### **Slopes**

Steeply sloping lands can present challenges, or pose barriers to development. Steepness of

topography is commonly expressed as percent slope (vertical rise/ horizontal run \*100). As a general rule, slopes in excess of 20% are of greatest concern for any land disturbing activity. Steep slopes do not necessarily preclude all forms of development, although costly engineering and site preparation/mitigation measures are required in order to minimize potential adverse impacts. Potential problems associated with development of excessively sloping lands include erosion and slope stability.

Slopes in the Town of Frog Creek range from level to nearly 33%. The steepest slopes are found in scattered locations throughout the Town, with the greatest concentrations in the Totogatic Highlands and moraines of the southeast part of the town. The principal existing land use in these areas is currently woodlands. Any proposed future development of these lands will require consideration of site-specific topographic constraints.

### **Soils**

An understanding of local soils is a critical component of land use planning. Soil conditions influence productivity of agricultural lands and forests, and may pose obstacles to land and infrastructure development. Soil factors such as wetness, drainage capacity, strength and depth to bedrock all influence soil suitability for land uses. In order to evaluate soil suitability for land uses, soil criteria for each use must be well defined and the suited soil regions must be identified.

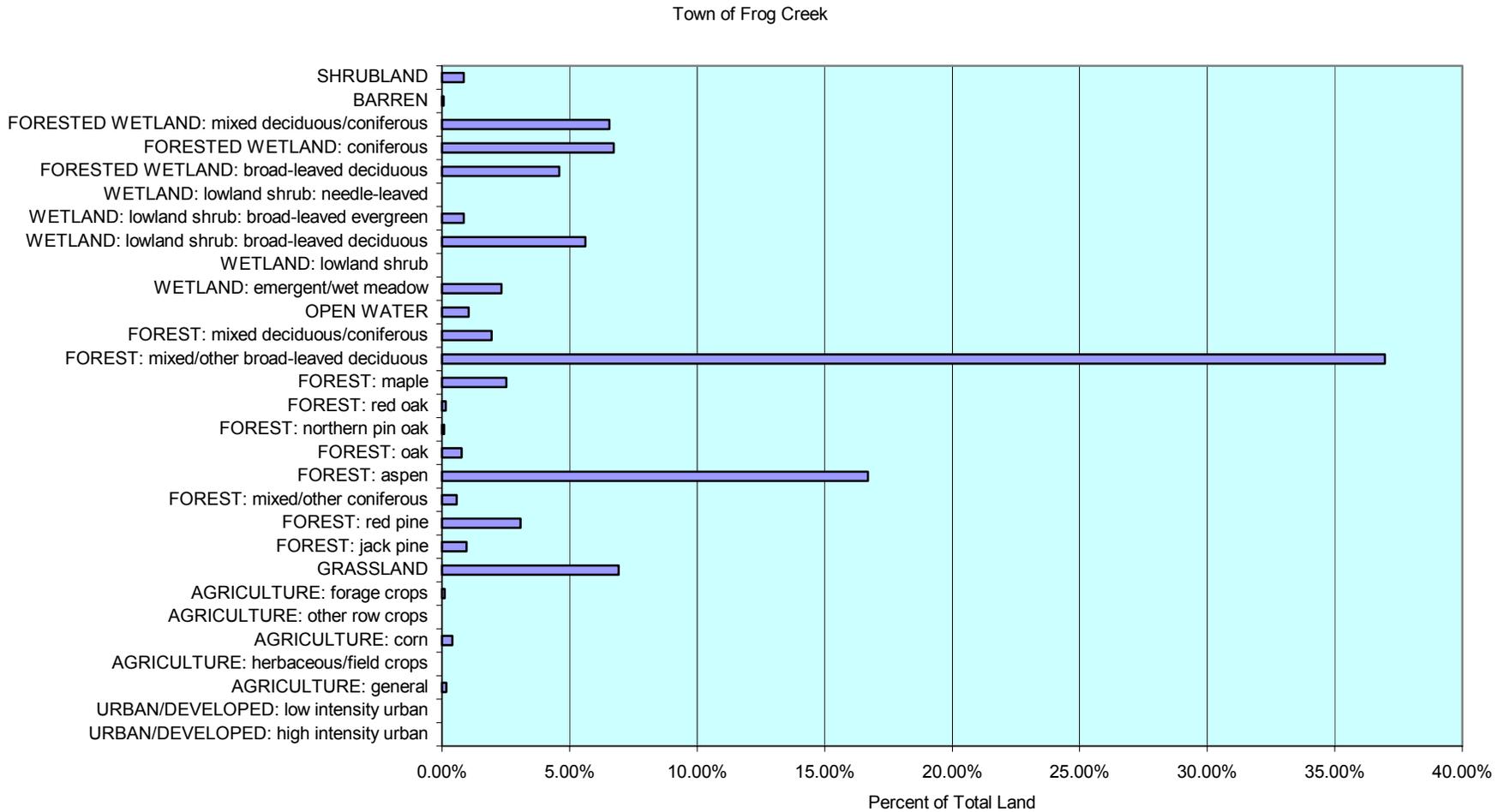
Soil properties which limit land uses or restrict land use activities are referred to as ‘limitations’ or ‘limiting factors’. Different soil types vary widely in terms of their distribution and limitations for specified uses. The spatial distribution of soils in the Town of Frog Creek have been inventoried and mapped by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and soil properties identified. Soil limitations for specified uses are defined as “slight”, “moderate”, or “severe”. Soils rated with severe limitations have one or more properties which are generally considered unfavorable for the specified land use or activity. A “severe” rating implies that substantial cost may be incurred through special designs or construction practices, remediation, or soil maintenance practices in order to overcome the limitation. Soils that exhibit these limitations should therefore generally be avoided, and development should be guided into more appropriate locations.

While soil inventory and interpretation does provide an accurate representation of soil characteristics at the local level, this data should not supplant the evaluation of individual site soil characteristics; therefore, the following soil information should be used as a general guide for local officials, planners, citizens and developers. Soil types are portrayed in Map 5.2 and soil limitations are depicted in Map 5.3.

### **Land Cover**

Land cover information for the Town of Frog Creek was obtained from the WISCLAND (Wisconsin Initiative for Statewide Cooperation on Land Cover Analysis and Data) data set. This data represents surface vegetation, open water, and urban area delineation based on interpretation of dual year satellite imagery. The data presents a generalized view of community land cover, and should not replace individual site examination. WISCLAND land cover class by percent of total area and is depicted in Map 5.4.

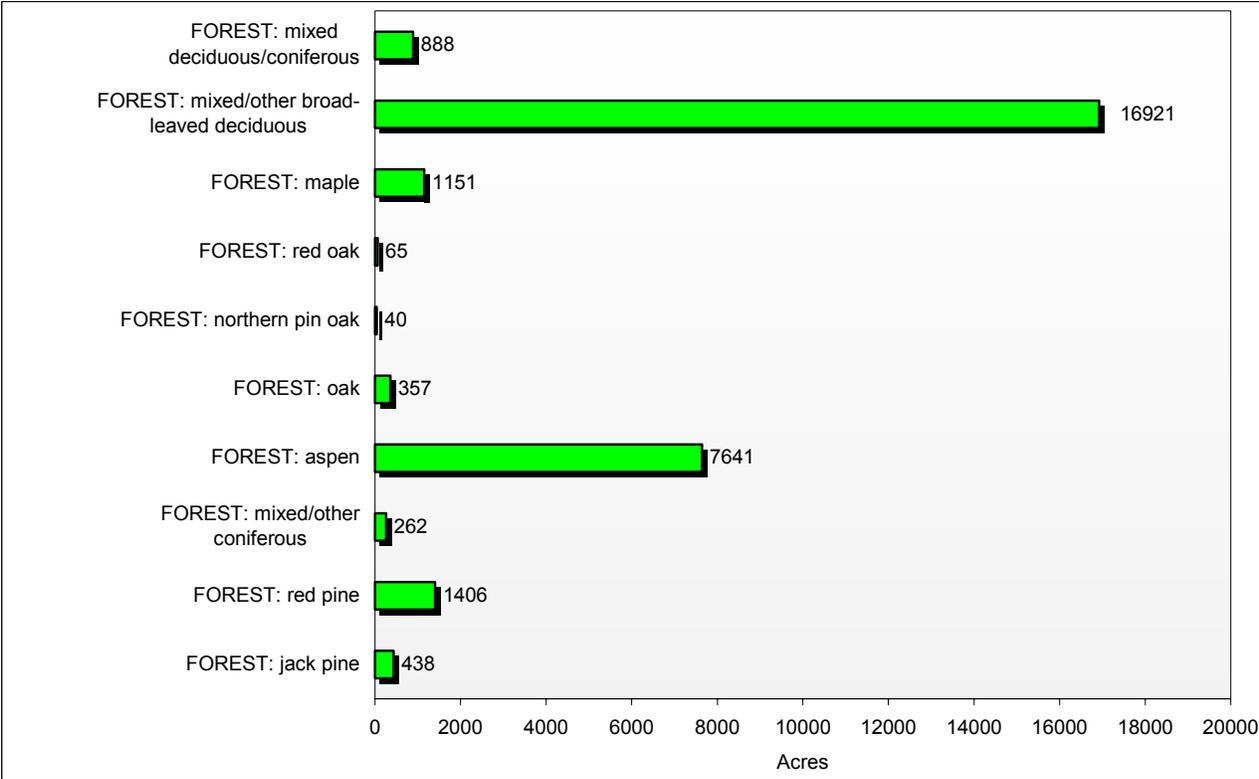
**FIGURE 5.1: Town of Frog Creek Land Cover Class by Percent of Total Area**



**Forest Resources**

Forests are one of the most defining characteristics of northern Wisconsin. These resources represent significant cultural, social, environmental and economic assets to citizens and communities. Forests provide a range of benefits including wildlife habitat, forest products, recreational opportunities, aesthetics, and other benefits. They are also very important to protect and enhance water quality.

**Figure 5.2: Forest Cover Types<sup>1</sup>, Approximate Area, Town of Frog Creek**



The dominant forest cover type in the Town of Frog Creek is mixed/other broad-leaved deciduous, which comprises nearly 17,000 acres of the total forested area. Aspen, red pine, maple and mixed deciduous/coniferous forest comprise the balance of forest cover in the town. See Figure 5.2 for forest cover types in Frog Creek.

The majority of the forestland in the Town of Frog Creek is currently under public ownership. Washburn County forestland in the Town of Frog Creek comprises over 75 percent of the town’s total acreage, and is located throughout the town. Currently there is no industrial forestland located within the town.

<sup>1</sup> Information obtained through GIS analysis using WISCLAND data set

**County Owned Forest Lands**

There are approximately 35,103 acres of county-owned forestlands in the Town of Frog Creek.

**State Owned Forest Lands**

There are approximately 672 acres of state-owned lands in the Town of Frog Creek.

**Federally Owned Lands**

There are no federally-owned acres in the Town of Frog Creek

**Surface Water Resources**

Water resources in the Town of Frog Creek are extremely minimal and play little role as a development factor.

Surface water resources for the Town of Frog Creek are depicted in Map 5.5.

**Watersheds**

A watershed can be defined as interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has transitioned its resource management approach to utilize watershed boundaries rather than political or social boundaries. The Shell Lake and Upper Yellow River encompasses most of the town, while the northeast corner is in the Lower Namekagon River watershed. Both watersheds are included within the St. Croix River Basin. Washburn County Watersheds are depicted on Map 5.6.

**Town of Frog Creek Lake Characteristics**

Within the Town of Frog Creek exist two named and four unnamed lakes encompassing 384 surface acres, and a little over 17 miles of shoreline. Town lakes are relatively shallow, with an average maximum lake depth of less than 9 feet and a maximum depth of 22 feet (Colton Flowage). The named lakes of the town of Frog Creek are classified as “spring lakes” “seepage lakes” or “drainage lakes”. See Table 5.1 for named lake characteristics.

<b>Table 5.1: Named Lake Characteristics</b>							
Name	Location Sec. T-N R-W	Surface Acres	Maximum Depth (ft)	Miles of Shoreline	Miles of Public Shoreline	Percent of Private Shoreline	Lake Type
Derosier Lake	2-42-11	109.0	11	2.31	0.01	100	SP
Colton Flowage	5-42-10	58.4	22	3.80	0.03	99	D
<b>Total</b>		<b>167.4</b>		<b>6.11</b>	<b>0.04</b>		

Source: Washburn County Lakes Classification  
 D - Drainage Lake, SP – Seepage Lake

### Lakes Classification System

The Washburn County Lakes Classification System was developed as a way to assess county surface water resources based on based on the characteristics of individual water bodies. Lakes in Washburn County were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Lake surface area
- Maximum depth
- Lake Type
- Size of the watershed
- Shoreline Development Factor (SDF)
- Development density

Each one of the evaluation criteria for each lake received a score from 0 to 3, based on the lake characteristics. The total sum of all scores is referred to as the *vulnerability ranking*, which ranges from 0 to a possible score of 24. These rankings are used to then define the lake classification assigned.

<u>Overall Vulnerability Ranking</u>	<u>Lake Classification</u>	<u>Protection Level</u>
Score of 13 and greater	1	<b>Minimum</b>
Score of 10 to 12	2	<b>Moderate</b>
Score of 9 or less	3	<b>Maximum</b>

The Washburn County shoreland zoning ordinance regulates development on all county waterways, including surface waters in the Town of Frog Creek. Table 5.2 describes some of the development standards for Frog Creek Lakes.

Name	Score	Class	Lot Area Per Single Family Unit	Minimum Lot Area	Minimum Shoreline Setback <sup>2</sup>	Vegetation Removal <sup>3</sup>	Minimum Side Yard Setback <sup>4</sup>	Minimum Rear Setback
Derosier Lake	9	3	300'	3 Acres	100'/125'	30'/75'	30'/90'	40'
Colton Flowage	12	2	200'	80,000 sq. ft.	100'	30'/75'	20'/60'	40'

Source: Washburn County Lakes Classification

### Perennial and Intermittent Rivers, Creeks, and Streams

Riparian surface features such as rivers, creeks and streams represent unique and diverse natural systems. The quality and quantity of these resources is intimately linked to land use and human activities.

There are two kinds of streams, perennial and intermittent. Perennial streams flow throughout most (>50%) of the year. Intermittent streams usually flow only after rainstorms or snowmelt

<sup>2</sup> Minimum Shoreline Setbacks Class I –100' lakes, 125' rivers. Setback averaging per section 271(1) Washburn County Zoning Ordinance applies to Class I and II.

<sup>3</sup> Vegetation Removal = Removal Corridor/feet from Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)

<sup>4</sup> Minimum Side Yard Setback = Feet Off One Side/ Feet Total Both Sides

and are, therefore, dry most of the year. Intermittent streams must be protected because they channel runoff into perennial streams and lakes and may become part of the aquatic ecosystem when water flows in them. Riparian surface features such as rivers, creeks and streams represent unique and diverse natural systems. The quality and quantity of these resources is intimately linked to land use and human activities.

There are approximately 73 miles of rivers, creeks, and streams in the Town of Frog Creek. There are no designated trout streams in the Town of Frog Creek. Named Rivers and Streams in the Town of Frog Creek are:

**BLACK BROOK**  
**CEDAR CREEK**

**FROG CREEK**  
**LITTLE FROG CREEK**

**SINK CREEK**  
**TOTAGATIC RIVER**

### **Floodplains**

Floodplains are lands adjacent to rivers or streams, which are subject to periodic, recurring inundation by water. Due to the flood-prone nature of these lands, development and other land use activities within this zone are strongly discouraged. Appropriate land uses for these areas would consist of resource protection and wildlife habitat uses.

### **Flood Hazard Assessment**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has defined areas of flood susceptibility in the Town of Frog Creek. The Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) series for Washburn County depicts these flood zones as shaded areas. Flood prone areas were determined by statistical analyses of records of river flow and rainfall, information obtained through consultation with the community, floodplain topographic surveys, and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses. It is strongly suggested that the Town acquire FEMA flood plain maps for future reference.

Washburn County has adopted flood plain regulations that apply to all bodies of water in the County. Determination as to whether a building site is located in a flood plain must be made through Zoning Office review of flood plain maps or through field verification of flood boundary.

Flood plains in the Town of Frog Creek are depicted in the Map 5.7.

## **Groundwater**

Groundwater is a critical resource for Washburn County and for Wisconsin. It is the main source of drinking water for 70% of Wisconsin residents and 95% of Wisconsin communities.

### Groundwater Quantity

Under natural conditions, a balance existed between the volume of water entering an aquifer and the volume of water being discharged from an aquifer. With the development of water wells, the natural balance between recharge rates and discharge rates was disrupted. In Wisconsin, the overall groundwater supply has been depleted due to increased discharge. Natural fluctuations in groundwater supply can occur due to droughts or natural seasonal precipitation fluctuations.

### Groundwater Quality

The quality of natural groundwater varies by location. As groundwater passes through sediments, naturally occurring chemicals may become deposited in the water. While naturally occurring groundwater contamination is generally mild, human-induced contaminants can make groundwater supplies unusable. The quality of groundwater is directly related to land use activities. The application of fertilizers, chemical spills, urban runoff, and non-point pollution can contribute to decreased quality of groundwater reserves.

### Groundwater Depth and Contamination Susceptibility

Groundwater depths (see Map 5.8) in the Town of Frog Creek range from 0-20 feet in the eastern third of town, to between 20 and 50 feet in the western two-thirds of the town. Groundwater contamination susceptibility corresponds to groundwater depth (see Map 5.9), with shallow groundwater depths being the most vulnerable areas for potential contamination. These areas are of significant concern in relation to the installation of conventional septic systems. Groundwater contamination susceptibility in the Town of Frog Creek ranges from medium to high.

## **Environmental Corridors**

Environmental Corridors are defined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as:

*“Linear areas of natural resources that are critical to maintaining water quality and quantity and to providing habitat linkages that ensure biological diversity. Environmental corridors are often associated with rivers and streams.”*

Natural benefits provided by environmental corridors include: air filtration, erosion control, and improved water quality. In addition, these natural features benefit the overall quality of life in the area and reduce the need for more expensive man-made solutions to water quality issues.

Many areas within these corridors provide important habitats for land and aquatic plants and animals. Connected habitats are superior to disjointed habitats and larger habitats are better for ensuring the survival of a species than smaller areas. Ensuring these corridors can continue to work as a system, and the relationships between plants, insects, animals, land and water continue to function properly are critical to environmental health and continued biological diversity.

The impacts and benefits of these corridors are not limited to one community or the responsibility of one jurisdiction. These areas follow natural boundaries and do not stop at

political boundaries. Coordination among communities/jurisdictions is necessary in order to achieve the environmental, economic, cultural, community building and health benefits, which can be attributed to these natural features.

### **Wetlands**

Wetlands represent one of the most unique and diverse elements of the natural community. Defined by the presence of water and water-loving vegetation, these communities support a range of plants and animals adapted to survive and thrive in this wet environment, including many threatened and endangered species.

These environments provide additional benefits through the services they provide.

- Wetlands act as natural filters, removing nutrients, and chemicals from the water, and are often constructed as bio-engineered water filtration devices, used to treat and cleanse municipal wastewater or urban runoff.
- Wetlands serve as natural flood control devices by intercepting and holding water, a service that reduces flood risk to local communities.
- Wetlands also serve as groundwater recharge supplies for Washburn County communities.
- Wetland vegetation serves to stabilize stream banks and watercourses. This action reduces overall soil erosion and protects water quality by reducing siltation and sediment loads.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and local zoning codes regulate wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the state, including wetlands, and is the primary Federal regulatory program for wetlands.

Article 27 (Shoreland Regulations) of the Washburn County Zoning Ordinance regulates the use/alterations of wetlands in the county. The regulations contained within this document apply to all lands within one thousand (1,000) feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable lake, pond, or flowage, and those lands within three hundred (300) feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable river or stream.

Wetlands have been delineated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) displays all wetland areas within Washburn County, which are less than 5 acres in size.

Washburn County has 518,236 surface acres, of which 79,140 acres are wetlands. Based on the WWI data, the Town of Frog Creek has approximately 12,121 acres of wetlands (wetlands 5 acres and larger)

The majority of wetlands in the Town of Frog Creek are classified as *forested wetlands*, which include bogs and forested floodplain complexes, are characterized by trees 20 feet or more in

height such as tamarack, white cedar, black spruce, elm, black ash, green ash and silver maple. *Scrub/Shrub* wetlands are also common in the town. These communities include bogs and alder thicket, and are characterized by woody shrubs and small trees such as tag alder, bog birch, willow and dogwood. Wetlands are depicted in Map 5.7.

<b><sup>5</sup>Table 5.3: Wetland Types</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Approximate Acres</b>
Forested	7,368
Scrub/Shrub	4,453
Emergent/Wet Meadow	210
Aquatic Bed	90
<b>Approximate Total</b>	<b>12,121</b>

Source: WDNR

### Resources of Concern

The Town of Frog Creek provides habitat for many species of wildlife, including rare, threatened or endangered species of plants and animals. These critical resources have been documented by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of the Natural Heritage Inventory Program. The specific location of endangered resources is confidential.

Plants and animals threatened with extinction are protected under federal and state endangered species legislation. Protection is not limited to only the individual species, but includes protection of habitat critical to the species’ survival.

The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) list for the Town of Frog Creek includes:

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>BALD EAGLE</i>	<i>HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS</i>	<i>SPECIAL CONCERN</i>
<i>NORTHERN GOSHAWK</i>	<i>ACCIPITER GENTILIS</i>	<i>SPECIAL CONCERN</i>

<b>Communities</b>	<b>Site</b>
<i>NORTHERN WET-MESIC FOREST</i>	<i>TOTAGATIC HIGHLANDS HEMLOCKS</i>
<i>NORTHERN WET FOREST</i>	<i>STODDARD PINES</i>
<i>ALDER THICKET</i>	<i>TOTAGATIC HIGHLANDS HEMLOCKS</i>
<i>NORTHERN DRY-MESIC FOREST</i>	<i>STODDARD PINES</i>
<i>NORTHERN MESIC FOREST</i>	<i>TOTAGATIC HIGHLANDS HEMLOCKS</i>

### Timber Wolves (*Canis lupus*)

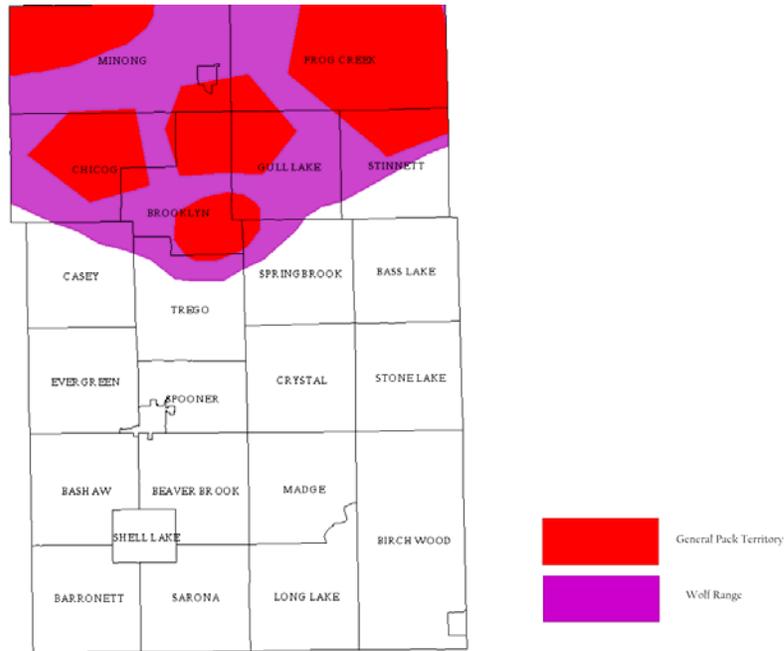
Once classified as an endangered species, the Timber Wolf has successfully re-colonized portions of it’s former home range in northern Wisconsin, including parts of Washburn County. Wolves were officially reclassified to “threatened” status in Wisconsin in 1999, and may be delisted (in Wisconsin) in the near future.

The Town of Frog Creek is considered “probable wolf range” according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources<sup>6</sup>. Information regarding **specific** pack ranges is not published

<sup>5</sup> Based on Wisconsin Wetland Inventory data, 5-acre minimum mapping unit.

and the transient nature of these animals combined with large pack territories make specific population estimates difficult in small areas such as townships. Based on WDNR inventory information, wolf packs are known to have home ranges within at least a portion of the Town of Frog Creek.

**Figure 5.3: Washburn County Wolf Range and General Pack Territories**



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Other endangered, threatened, or rare species or communities may also occur within the Town of Frog Creek. Locations of these critical resources are mapped to the section level in order to protect the security of these resources.

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<sup>6</sup> Gray Wolf Distribution in Wisconsin: Winter 2000-2001

## **5.3 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Productive Agricultural Lands**

Agricultural lands play an important role in defining the character of many Wisconsin communities. While not a considerable land use in each Washburn County community, agriculture is an economically and culturally significant activity in some portions of the county. Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation requires communities to review and analyze their agricultural land base, and to formulate goals, objectives and policies for preserving prime agricultural lands. The Washburn County Farmland Preservation Plan (1982), drafted under the 1977 Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Act, provides detailed statistics, background information, maps, goals, objectives, and policies for farmland preservation. Prime farmland has been delineated from the Washburn County Soil Survey. Prime farmlands in the Town of Frog Creek are depicted in Map 5.11.

### **County Agricultural History**

Early agricultural activities in Washburn County were primarily focused on providing food supplies to lumber camps, and by 1935 there were 1754 farms producing on 215,316 acres of cropland. Low yields due to poor soil conditions caused many of these operations to fail, and by 1978 nearly 50% of the county's farm acreage had been sold for other uses. The greatest losses occurred between 1949 and 1969, when nearly 95,000 acres of agricultural lands were converted to other uses. Agricultural use trends have continued a downward slide, as reflected by the Agriculture Census for Washburn County, which indicate an additional 2.9% decrease in farmland between 1987 and 1997. Agricultural uses have declined countywide, especially in the marginal lands on the sand barrens of the northern and western parts of the county, but remain a viable activity on the more productive lands of the southern parts of the county.

The decrease in overall farmland acreage coincides with an increase in the average farm size. Between the years of 1935 and 1997, the average farm size in Washburn County had increased from 122.8 acres to 276 acres, a net increase of nearly 125%. This trend mirrors statewide trends towards farmland consolidation, and reflects the combining of many smaller family farms into larger, more economical units.

### **Agricultural Trends in the Town of Frog Creek**

Farmland acreage in the Town of Frog Creek has fluctuated in the years 1967 through 2001. Between 1967 and 1976, the Town gained 494 acres of farmland. During the same period, the town did not gain nor lose any farms, indicating that farming operations actually became larger. From 1977 through 2001, the town lost 180 acres of land assessed as farmland. Further information on this topic is found in the Land Use section of the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan.

## **5.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Introduction**

Community cultural resources are a significant element in defining local character. The cultural heritage of the community may consist of many things such as historic buildings, festivals,

cultural groups, entertainment, and viewsheds. This element proposes to identify a number of cultural attributes in the Town of Frog Creek and propose meaningful objectives to the enhancement and protection of town cultural resources. According to the Architecture and Historic Inventory (AHI), provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society, there are five sites identified in the Town of Frog Creek. These sites are listed in Table 5.4.

Town	Township/Range	PLS	Common Name	Historical Name	Type of Structure	Date
Frog Creek	42-11-20	N/A	-	-	Home	-
Frog Creek	42-11-20	N/A	-	-	Dairy Barn	-
Frog Creek	42-11-21	N/A	-	-	Home	-
Frog Creek	42-11-21	N/A	-	-	Barn	-
Frog Creek	42-11-29	NW/NW	-	-	Home	-

Source: Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory, Wisconsin Historical Society

**Archaeological Sites Inventory**

The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains a list of archaeological sites and cemeteries known as the Archaeological Site Inventory Database (ASI). Up to this point in time, 173 archaeological sites and cemeteries have been reported to the Wisconsin Historical Society for Washburn County. These sites cover an extended period of time, which include campsites/villages/communities, cabins/homesteads, sugar mapping sites, cemetery/burial/mounds, trading/fur posts, mill/sawmills, and kilns. Of the 173 present in the county, six are reported for the Town of Frog Creek and are shown below in Table 5.5.

Site Name	Site Type	Cultural Study Unit
Chittamo Methodist Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro-American
Little Barn Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro-American
Woodpecker	Other	Historic Euro-American
N/A	Homestead	Historic Euro-American
N/A	Homestead	Historic Euro-American
N/A	Homestead Kiln Logging Camp	Historic Euro-American

Source: Archaeological Site Inventory Database, Wisconsin Historical Society

**Viewsheds and Scenic Resources**

One of the qualities that characterize the Town of Frog Creek are the picturesque views which are common throughout the general vicinity of the town. Accessibility to the views may over time be limited or denied due to private development of land. It should be a planning policy to try and ensure that the characteristic natural landscape features are protected and that views remain accessible to the public. Land use design should consider the natural scenic views during the development review process.

## **5.5 NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS**

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and action steps has been developed to assist the town in the conservation and promotion of effective management of the local natural, agricultural, and cultural resources. These resources are important to the town.

Significant data and information is available from federal, state, local, and tribal sources pertaining to the importance of the local natural, agricultural, and cultural resources. Throughout this comprehensive plan, information was used to assist in developing goals, objectives, actions, policies, and programs in an effort to be consistent with planning principles and in protecting economically productive areas, where applicable.

### **GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STATEMENTS**

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Goal: Protect and preserve the town's important natural resources.

1. Require mining operations of all types to satisfy community concerns before beginning operations.
  - a. Request that all such potential operations provide written plans to the town in advance of any permit hearings.
  - b. Research the need for a town ordinance or permit process for such operations.
2. Encourage multiple-use trails.
  - a. Identify potential areas for new trails.
  - b. Cooperate with other jurisdictions dealing with the establishment of new trails.
  - c. Have available information or contacts for trail systems in the town.
3. Encourage local and county cooperation.
  - a. Ask county to keep town apprised of decisions regarding county land within town borders.
  - b. Make appropriate town-based comments or suggestions to county forest department during public hearings or comment periods affecting the town.
4. Have available information or contacts for surface water landowners regarding erosion control, shoreline requirements or other issues that may be important in protecting these resources.
  - a. Ensure that proper septic systems are in place to safeguard surface waters and groundwater in the town.

5. Preserve public hunting, fishing and recreational areas of the town.
  - a. Work with state and county land representatives to ensure that such public lands are kept clean and free of trash and other harmful items.

## **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

Goal: Preserve productive farmland.

1. Support traditional farming.
  - a. Help provide resources to town farm owners who wish to continue their operations through cooperative efforts with UW-Extension or other appropriate agencies.
  - b. Consult with farm owners if future development in the town potentially impacts their farm operations.
2. Encourage non-traditional farming.
  - a. Provide information to prospective alternative farming endeavors via contacts in UW-Extension or other pertinent organizations.
  - b. Encourage the development of organic farming where feasible
  - c. Investigate the siting of a farmers market area if local farm needs warrant such consideration.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Goal: Maintain and preserve the cultural and historical resources of Frog Creek.

1. Compose historic book on the development of Frog Creek.
  - a. Research community sources for information on possible historic book for the town.
2. Identify cultural and historic sites.
  - a. Mark and keep an inventory of cultural and historic sites in the town.
  - b. Research State of Wisconsin Historical Society for information on the town.