

ROCK-KOSHKONONG LAKE DISTRICT

LAND USE PLAN

The Rock-Koshkonong Lake District (District) has resolved to prepare a Lake Koshkonong Land Use Plan for lands within the District. The District has resolved to adopt in principal, the land use plans for each Township within the District. The Townships within the District are Koshkonong, Sumner and Jefferson in Jefferson County, Milton and Fulton in Rock County and Albion in Dane County. The land use planning in each Township is based on the process of the identification of goals and objectives to formulate a solution of compatible land use development. These Township land use plans are reflective of the principles of effective planning that include:

- The provision of land at various densities and in places most accessible to services;
- The location of various densities of development in areas that can adequately support them without incurring traffic safety, groundwater or other hazards; and;
- The protection of valuable natural resources.

Land development is appropriate when it follows the planning principles listed above, when it is consistent with the surrounding land uses, and when it is not in conflict with the plan's emphasis on the protection of critical environmental areas such as surface and ground water resources, flood plains, prime agricultural soils and open spaces.

The District has resolved to incorporate the land use plans for each Township within the District, with special consideration being given to protection of valuable natural resources associated with the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong. The District resolves to identify and protect the valuable natural resources within the District boundaries and proposes to create a land use plan that is at least as restrictive as each Township with respect to these natural resources.

Each Township in the District has a designation for natural resource areas such as “Environmental Corridor”, “Open Space”, “Environmental & Natural Resources”, etc. The District resolves to abide by these respective land use planning efforts in each Township and to incorporate the goals, objectives and policies of each Township in the Rock-Koshkonong Lake District Land Use Plan. In addition, the District resolves to establish a policy to protect, restore, enhance and conserve all wetlands and waterways within the District.

NATURAL RESOURCES LAND USE PLAN

Goals

- ◆ To protect, restore, enhance, preserve and conserve the natural resource areas within the District boundaries.
- ◆ To protect, preserve and conserve high quality surface and ground water resources within the District boundaries.
- ◆ To identify, protect and retain natural resources within the District for recreation, wildlife and fisheries habitat, historical and archaeological preservation and conservation.

Objectives

- ◆ To protect, preserve, restore, enhance and conserve all wetlands, flood plains, critical habitats and natural drainage systems and encourage watershed level stormwater management practices.
- ◆ To encourage a network of natural resource corridors primarily along waterways and interconnecting protected areas within the District to allow wildlife movement between such areas.
- ◆ To identify and preserve a significant quantity and variety of natural resource areas within the District for recreational, aesthetic and ecological purposes.
- ◆ To promote the environmentally sustainable use of natural resource lands in areas adjacent to waterways, flood plains and other natural resource areas within the District.

Policy

The Rock-Koshkonong Lake District Land Use Plan for Natural Resource Areas within District boundaries recognizes that Lake Koshkonong and its associated wetlands and tributaries are a valuable natural resource with a significant practical value. The District has determined that the wetlands and waterways associated with the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong are critical elements of the Rock River watershed and provide numerous benefits to the natural resource and the general public. The District resolves that all wetlands, waterways and environmental corridors that are tributaries or contiguous to the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong within the District as “critical” natural resource areas in need of protection, restoration, enhancement, conservation and preservation.

The District policy with regards to these wetlands, waterways and environmental corridors includes the satisfaction of each Township policy and zoning ordinance, and the protection, restoration, enhancement, preservation and conservation of these wetlands, waterways and environmental corridors to protect and improve the water quality of the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong ecosystem, and groundwater.

The policy can be used for variety of purposes such as conservation, protection, restoration, enhancement, preservation and conservation of fragile and ecologically important areas, active and passive recreation uses, and protection and preservation of wildlife habitat. The policy protects the rural character of the lands within the District, and sensitive areas such as wetlands, waterways, environmental corridors, flood plains and groundwater recharge areas.

The broad land use category of “Natural Resource Area” and its representation within each Township Land Use Plan should be considered to be a generalized representation of the natural resources areas within the District. It should also be noted the protection and preservation of natural resource areas from incompatible

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uses is recommended whether or not each site is designated on the plan as a natural resource area. Each parcel of land must be viewed individually to determine what impact a proposed development may have on the natural resource area.

Private citizens within the District can play an important role in the protection and preservation of natural resource areas through careful stewardship of their lands. This land use plan supports this process by encouraging the permanent protection and preservation of natural resource areas through conservation easements or deed restrictions.