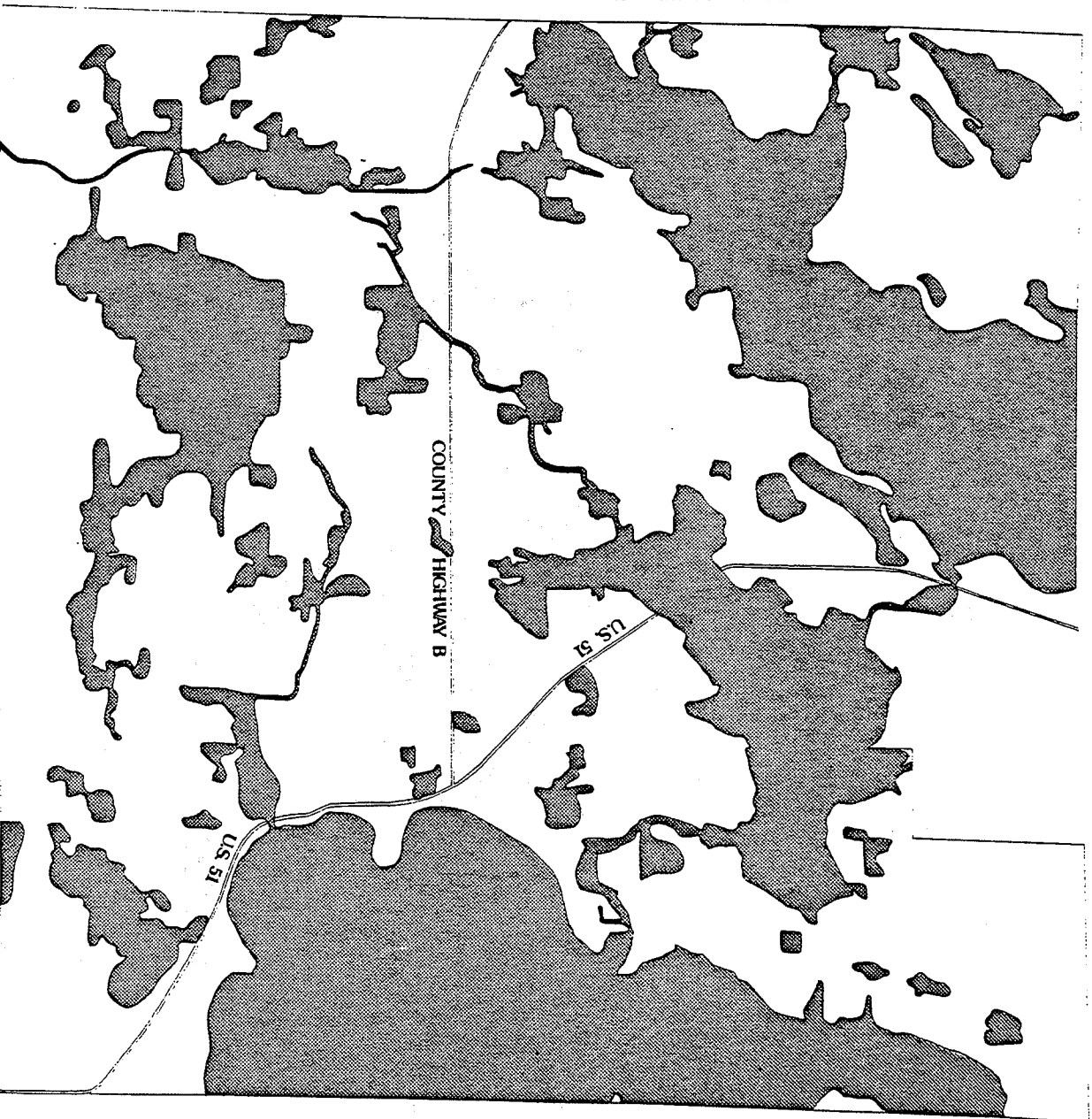


# I. INTRODUCTION

In January, 1978, students and staff of the University of Wisconsin's Environmental Awareness Center presented the Dunn Plan Commission with a preliminary study of the town's open space system. This system includes those resources that serve a useful natural or cultural function for the people of the town. These resources include woodlands, steep slopes and drainage areas, scenic areas, historic sites, wetlands, springs, streams, rivers, and lakes.

Because of the large number and variety of open space resources found in the town, combined with the town's proximity to the expanding Madison metropolitan area, the Center saw a further opportunity to explore several open space preservation concepts with the town.

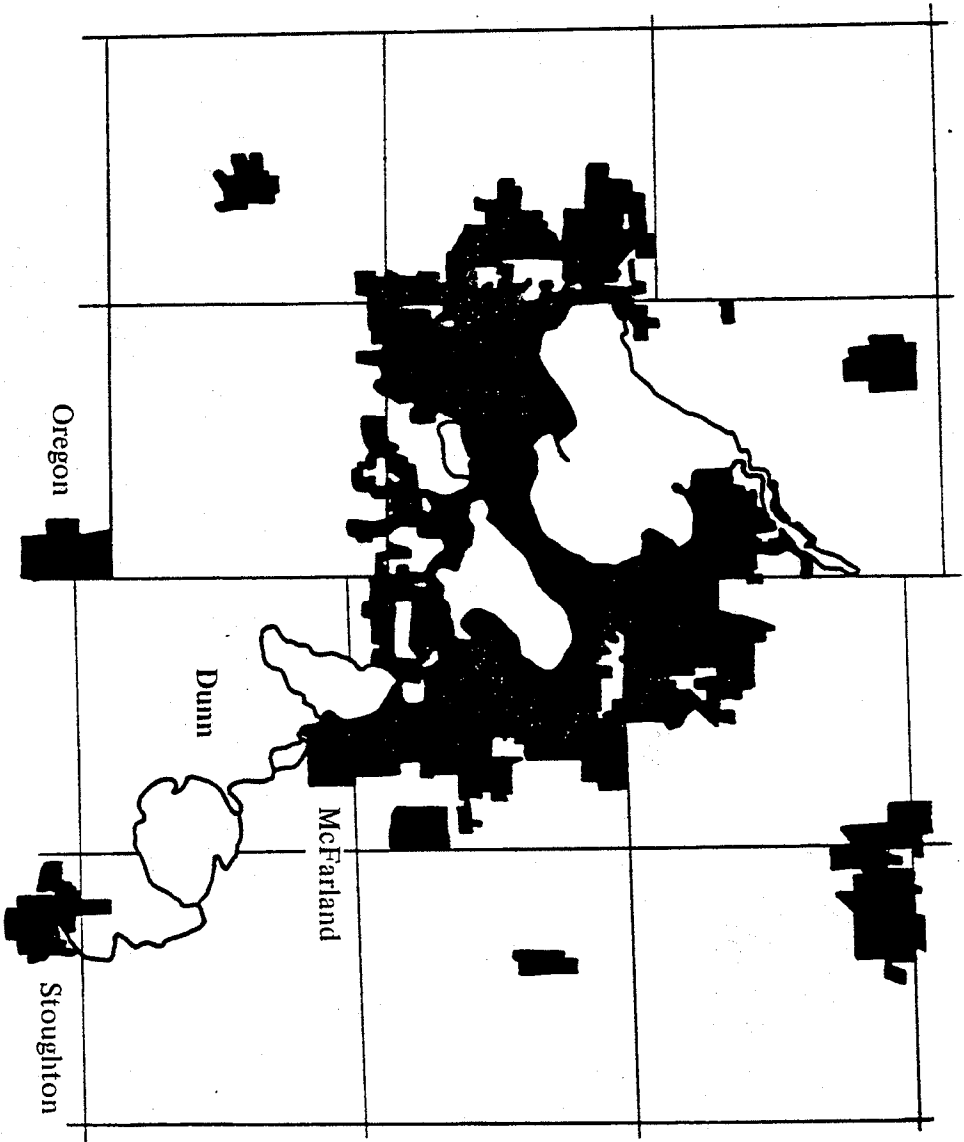


The Town's Open Space System, Showing Environmental Corridors

In July, 1978, the Plan Commission appointed an eight-member committee to work with Center staff and students on a detailed study of the town's open space resources. In the course of this study, the Center study team and the Town Open Space Committee found that:

- The study and protection of open space resources should focus primarily on the functions they serve as part of a system, rather than on the individual resources themselves.
- A successful preservation strategy should include a wide range of public and private activities.
- In planning for open space preservation, consistent procedures and adequate information are needed to back up planning decisions.
- The local planning review process should be both sensitive and practical. A sensitive planning review process includes the flexibility to mesh specific development proposals with the functional needs of the open space system. A practical planning review process provides developers clear notice of community goals and plan details.

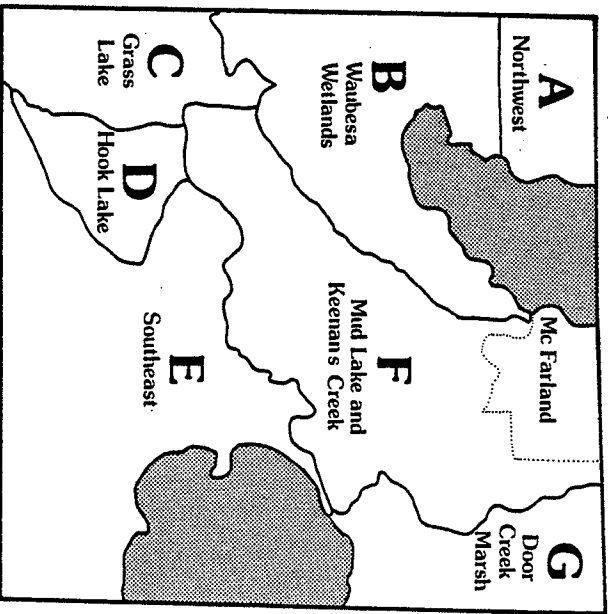
This handbook was developed in the hopes that the results of this study could serve as a useful guide for the Plan Commission, Town Board, and other interested citizens. Although this handbook is written specifically for the Town of Dunn, it provides a practical example for other communities interested in preserving their open space resources.



The Town of Dunn's Proximity to the Madison Metropolitan Area

This handbook has been divided into sections on:

- **The Town's Open Space Resources**—This section provides an overall view of the physical, natural, and historic resources which either influence or are a part of the town's open space system.
- **Open Space Functions**—This section describes the primary functions of the town's open space resources, and provides some management and use principles.
- **Tools for Preservation**—A wide range of available preservation methods are described and discussed in this section. These methods run the gamut from public education to erosion and sedimentation control.
- **Study Area Analysis**—The Town Plan Commission bears the responsibility of continually reviewing land use change. This section therefore, includes information designed to help the Commission insure that land use changes are consistent with the environmental and open space goals of the town land use plan. To adequately study the specific needs of the town's different areas, each region was analyzed separately. For this task, the town was divided into seven study areas. A total of 35 maps, five different sets of mapped information for each study area, are included in this section of the handbook. The original set of colored maps is available for use in the town hall.



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*Hope and the future for me are not in lawns and cultivated fields, not in towns and cities, but in the impervious and quaking swamps. When, formerly, I have analyzed my partiality for some farm which I had contemplated purchasing, I have frequently found that I was attracted solely by a few square rods of impermeable and unfathomable bog—a natural sink in one corner of it. That was the jewel which dazzled me. I derive more of my subsistence from the swamps which surround my native town than from the cultivated gardens in the village.*

*... I enter a swamp as a sacred place, a sanctum sanctorum. There is the strength, the marrow, of Nature. . . . A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it than by the woods and swamps that surround it. A township where one primitive forest waves above while another primitive forest rots below—such a town is fitted to raise not only corn and potatoes, but poets and philosophers for the coming ages.*

—HENRY DAVID THOREAU  
*Walking* (1862)

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