

CHAPTER 6. OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Current Conditions

Grayslake has a long history of supporting the preservation of open space through the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands, woodlands, and other natural areas. This is supported by a number of Forest Preserve acquisitions in the Grayslake area, the enactment of the most stringent parkland donation ordinances in the metropolitan region, and the requirement of land dedications for greenway corridors throughout the community. In addition, the Village has encouraged the concept of clustered residential development resulting in the preservation of additional acres of open space through the approval of the Prairie Crossing Subdivision and the enactment of various subarea plans requiring this type of development. The result is the preservation of approximately 3,500 acres of open space in the Grayslake area for public use that otherwise would not have been available.

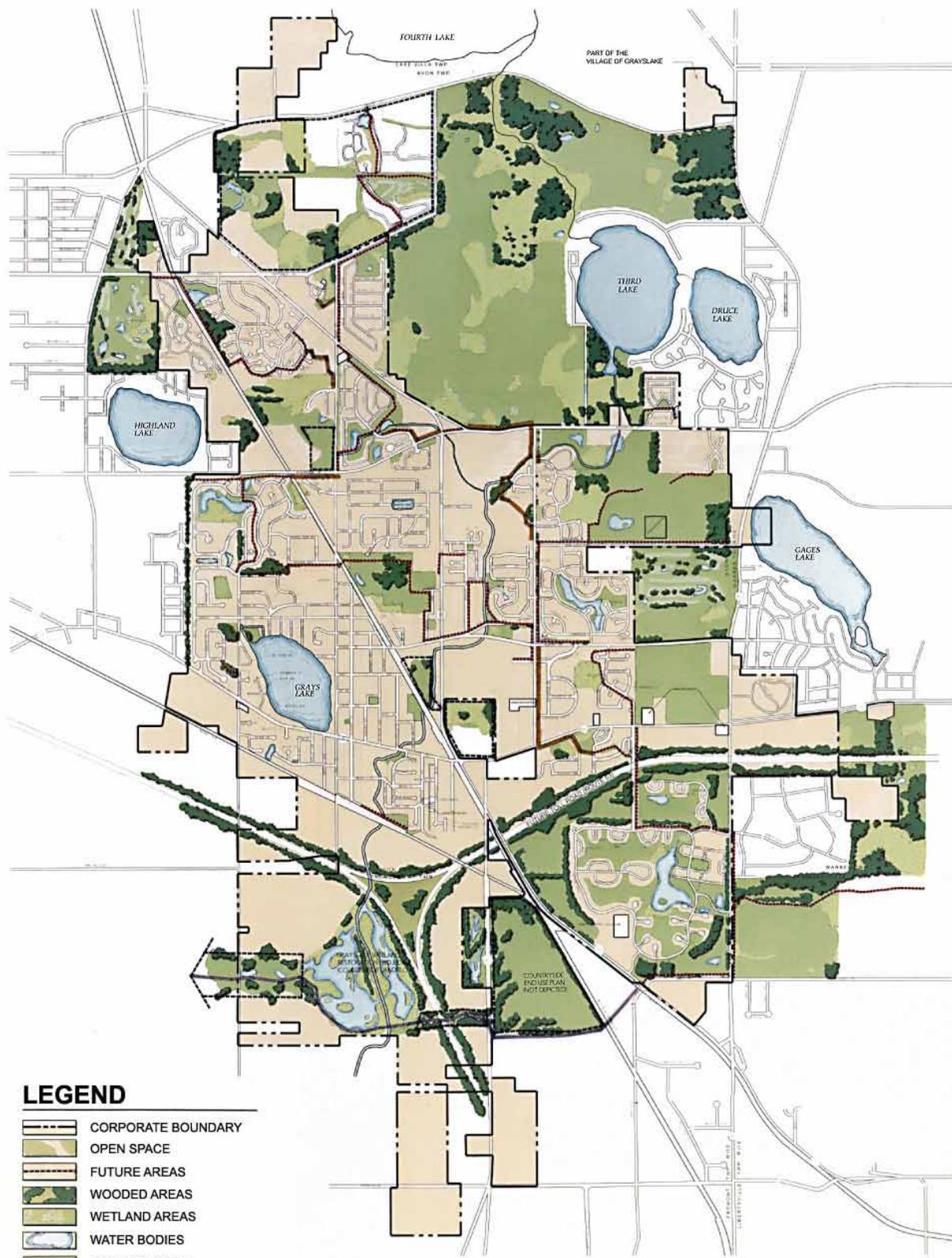
Protection of natural resources has also been a priority for the Village. The Village was one of the first communities in the area to pass a Tree Preservation Ordinance, has encouraged the planting of thousands of trees within the Village, passed stringent clean air requirements, and instituted innovative programs to protect air quality.

As a result of these efforts, the Village is blessed with a large amount of permanently preserved open space, including many natural ecosystems, wetlands, prairies, savannahs, and woodlands. In fact, preserved open space will be the largest single land use within the Grayslake planning area (see *Figure 41: Area Land Resource and Open Space Inventory*).

The Future

The Village will experience a limited amount of residential growth over the next 20 years and, through implementation of its economic development plans, should experience significant non-residential growth. This scenario will present the opportunity to continue the strong emphasis on environmental protection and open space preservation in the development approval process.

Goal: Preservation of environmentally sensitive sites in newly developing areas, preserving and enhancing the existing natural areas of the Village, and support of regional clean air and water efforts through local initiatives.



LEGEND

- CORPORATE BOUNDARY
- OPEN SPACE
- FUTURE AREAS
- WOODED AREAS
- WETLAND AREAS
- WATER BODIES
- EXISTING PATHS
- FUTURE PATHS - NEAR TERM
- LONGTERM REGIONAL PATH-GENERAL ALIGNMENT

NOTES: TOTAL APPROXIMATE ACRES IN OPEN SPACE INVENTORY - 3,000-3,500 ACRES
 PLAN IS ILLUSTRATIVE (BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE)

Open Space Inventory Illustrates Publicly Owned Land That Includes:
 Lake County Fairgrounds Prairie Preservation Man-Made Lakes
 Golf Courses (Public) College of Lake County Major Trails
 Forest Preserves Woodlands Technology Campus
 Libertyville Township Wetlands

Private Property That Includes:
 Land protected by conservation easements or other permanent legal means
 Future Areas as depicted in adopted subarea plans

Figure 41:
**AREA LAND RESOURCE AND
 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY**

Open Space and Natural Resources Action Plan:

A. Promote provision of open space in new development.

1. Use the concept of clustered residential development to preserve at least 50% of a development site for open space in non-infill projects.
2. Require the use of access easements for public access to preserved open spaces, which remain in private hands.
3. Preserve valuable woodlands, wetlands, and other natural features as part of the preserved open space in new developments.
4. Require the extension of public trail systems throughout preserved open spaces.
5. Require the use of natural vegetation abutting wetlands to improve ground water quality, including the use of conservation easements to preserve these buffers on private property.
6. Review and revise, as needed, the Village's landscape requirements for residential and non-residential projects to expand the use of appropriate natural landscaping and the planting of trees.

B. Preserve and Enhance Existing Natural Areas

1. Develop maintenance and enhancement plans for major public wetlands and woodlands within the Village.
2. Implement the activities included in the maintenance and enhancement plans by the ownership agencies.
3. Encourage the planting of trees throughout the community through the use of financial incentives, grants, and the use of public capital improvement funds.
4. Encourage the planting of natural plants along public rights-of-way, trail areas, and other public places.
5. Preserve and enhance the Avon-Fremont Drainage Ditch as a natural resource and community amenity.

C. Expand Grayslake's open space inventory.

1. Expand open space within the Village through:
 - a. acquisition of development rights or access easements for existing floodway areas;

- b. selective purchase of key open space parcels for passive and active recreation and preservation purposes;
 - c. continuation of stringent developer open space requirements within new developments;
 - d. accepting the donation of appropriate lands for preservation purposes.
- D. Incorporate open space plans for the Rollins Savannah, Liberty Prairie Conservancy, Libertyville Township Open Space District, and Almond Marsh Forest Preserve into the Village's open space plans.