CHEROKEE MARSH

MAP EXPLANATION

Map A

1) Off of map to NE in sections 34 and 35, in Town of Windsor, the Token Creek Millpond helps settle silt from the Upper Token Creek Watershed. Farm management and controlled development are needed to reduce silt, flood and nutrient load on Cherokee Marsh and Lake Mendota.

2) Token Creek Hill in section 34, a prominent wooded feature, worth investigating for its geology, biota, possible recreational value in future.

3) Temporary pond in SW section 33, may favor migrating water birds and might be a recharge area for Cherokee groundwater.

4) Lake Windsor (artificial pond) and surrounding development and golf course, in sections 30 and 31. Attention to erosion is important during further construction. Catch basins or percolation areas (old fields, meadows) would help clean up street and lawn runoff, as would scheduled improvements in farm management in the entire Mendota Watershed. Dams on the Yahara are not recommended, as this is one of few unchanged stream courses (section 31, and upper part of section 6). Meanders are valuable in flood control and plant and fish reproduction.

5) Forty acres of wetland in Token Creek County Park (SW 1/4 of section 4 and adjacent part of section 9); somewhat dried out (drained) peaty sedge meadow with invading forbs, shrubs, aspens and reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea) along dredged but not straightened creek with eroding banks. River plants, found throughout streamsides in the Cherokee area, include goldenglow (Rudbeckia laciniata), cup plant (Silphium perfoliatum), sage (Artemisia serrata), and glade mallow (Napaea dioica). The park includes one woodlot, old fields that might be partly restored to prairie, and a nature trail through the wetlands along the creek; it has good educational potential and wetland restoration possibility. Not all parts of this wetland were visited.

6) Two small ponds (borrow pits dug during interstate construction) in section 5.

7) Marshy section 6 (and marshy adjacent parts of sections 7, 8, and 12). This area once comprised over one square mile of apparently open sedge meadow; now much of it is ditched, cropped, pastured, and silted. The remaining parts, labelled (7) here, include various kinds of degraded meadows like those in Token Creek County Park. But even now, this large quiet section is an excellent teaching and wildlife observation area, accessible by canoe up to the center of the section (in willows, area 9). Parts are now owned by the DNR; the rest of the lowlands should be acquired for public use and lake protection. Ditches should be closed and original water courses restored, as noted under Lake Windsor (4). Not all parts were examined in detail.

8) Wetland shrubs; pussy willows (Salix spp.), red-osier dogwood (Cornus stolonifera), occasionally bog birch (Betula sp. [sandbergii?]) in sections 5, 6, and 12.

9) Forest of black willows (Salix nigra) along eroding banks of stream, center of section 6, good for bird life observation from a canoe.

10) Forty-acre swamp of large old tamaracks (Larix laricina), alder (Alnus incana), black ash (Fraxinus nigra), and skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) in sections 6 and 7, needs more study.

CHEROKEE MARSH

MAP KEY


Shallow marsh; cattail, bur reed, often mixed with sedges.


Sedge meadow.


Grazed sedge meadow.


Sod farm.


Fen.


Shrubs.


Tamaracks.


Wetland disturbance vegetation, usually predominantly reed canary grass.


Old field, prairie.


Woods.


Cultivated.


Mowed lawns, parks.


Developed and developing.


Quarry and landfill.


Spring.