

CHAPTER 5

Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources

Section 5.1 Climate

Franklin Grove is cold in winter. In summer it is generally hot but has occasional cool spells. Precipitation falls as snow during frequent snowstorms in winter and chiefly as rain showers, which often are heavy, during the warmer periods, when warm moist air moves in from the south. The amount of annual rainfall usually is adequate for corn, soybeans and small grain.

In winter, the average temperature is about 22 degrees F and the average daily minimum temperature is 14 degrees F. The lowest temperature on record for the area, which occurred at Paw Paw on February 3, 1996, is -33 degrees F. In summer, the average temperature is 70 degrees F and the average daily maximum temperature is about 81 degrees F. The highest temperature on record for the area, which occurred at Paw Paw on June 26, 1988, is 101 degrees F.

Total annual precipitation is 36.85 inches. Of this total, 24.14 inches, or about 66 percent, usually falls in April through September. The growing season for most crops fall within this period. In 2 years out of 10, the rainfall in April through September is less than 12.26 inches. The heaviest 1-day rainfall on record for the area is 6.92 inches on June 24, 1994. Thunderstorms occur on about 50 days each year.

The average seasonal snowfall is 30.6 inches. The heaviest 1-day snowfall on record for the area is 14 inches on January 26, 1967. The greatest snow depth at any one time on record for the area is 29 inches on January 19, 1979. On average, 48 days of the year have at least 1 inch of snow on the ground. The number of such days, however, varies greatly from year to year.

Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms strike occasionally. They are of local extent and of short duration and cause only sparse damage in narrow belts. Hailstorms sometimes occur during the warmer periods. The hail falls in scattered small areas.

Section 5.2 Agricultural Resources

Nearly 93% of the Village's 1.5 mile extra-territorial planning area is in agricultural or agriculturally-related use. Grain farming is the predominant agricultural activity in the Village of Franklin Grove planning area. The mean farm tax parcel size is approximately 63.4 acres in the Franklin Grove planning area.

The economic activity of agriculture has some very specific land use requirements, depending on the type of farming. The growing of crops for profit necessitates relatively large, contiguous parcels, the slope of which should not be excessive and the soils, fertile and well drained. This is particularly true of grains and soybeans. Other types of agricultural pursuits, such as feed lots, garden farms, and dairies generally demand increased labor and less land to be profitable. Generally, agricultural units are limited to the physical characteristics of the land and are relatively flexible with respect to location. This is in marked contrast to other economic activities where the location of the activity with respect to others is a very important part of their economic framework.

Lee County is one of the top agricultural producing counties in the State. In 2004, according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Lee County ranked 16th in the State for crop cash receipts. Lee County's dominant crops are corn and soybeans. In 2004, Lee County ranked 7th in the State for corn production with 45,251,000 bushels, and 33rd in the State for soybean production with 5,880,000 bushels.

Other Lee County agricultural items and trends of note (Source: 1992 and 2002 U.S. Census of Agriculture):

- The number of farms decreased 16.3% between 1992 and 2002 from 1,006 farms to 842 farms.
- The amount of land in farms decreased 6.1% between 1992 and 2002 from 414,442 acres to 389,037 acres.
- The average farm size increased 12.1% between 1992 and 2002 from 412 acres to 462 acres.
- The amount of total cropland decreased by 5.4% between 1992 and 2002 from 389,789 acres to 369,736 acres.
- The market value of agricultural products sold increased 2.9% between 1992 and 2002 to \$129,461,000.
- The market value of agricultural products sold (based on average per farm) increased 22.9% between 1992 and 2002 from \$125,084 to \$153,754.

The increase in farm size is largely due to the advances in farming technology and the increased use of bigger and more efficient farm machinery. In addition, because farming is becoming more and more mechanized, smaller farms are being consolidated in order to realize the benefits associated with the economy of scale. These trends are likely to continue as technology continues to improve and the business of farming demands greater amounts of financial resources.

Section 5.3 Natural Resources

This section will describe the existing conditions of natural resources in the Village of Franklin Grove and surrounding area. Natural resources include: soils, watersheds, streams, groundwater, floodplains, wetlands, forests, vegetation and wildlife.

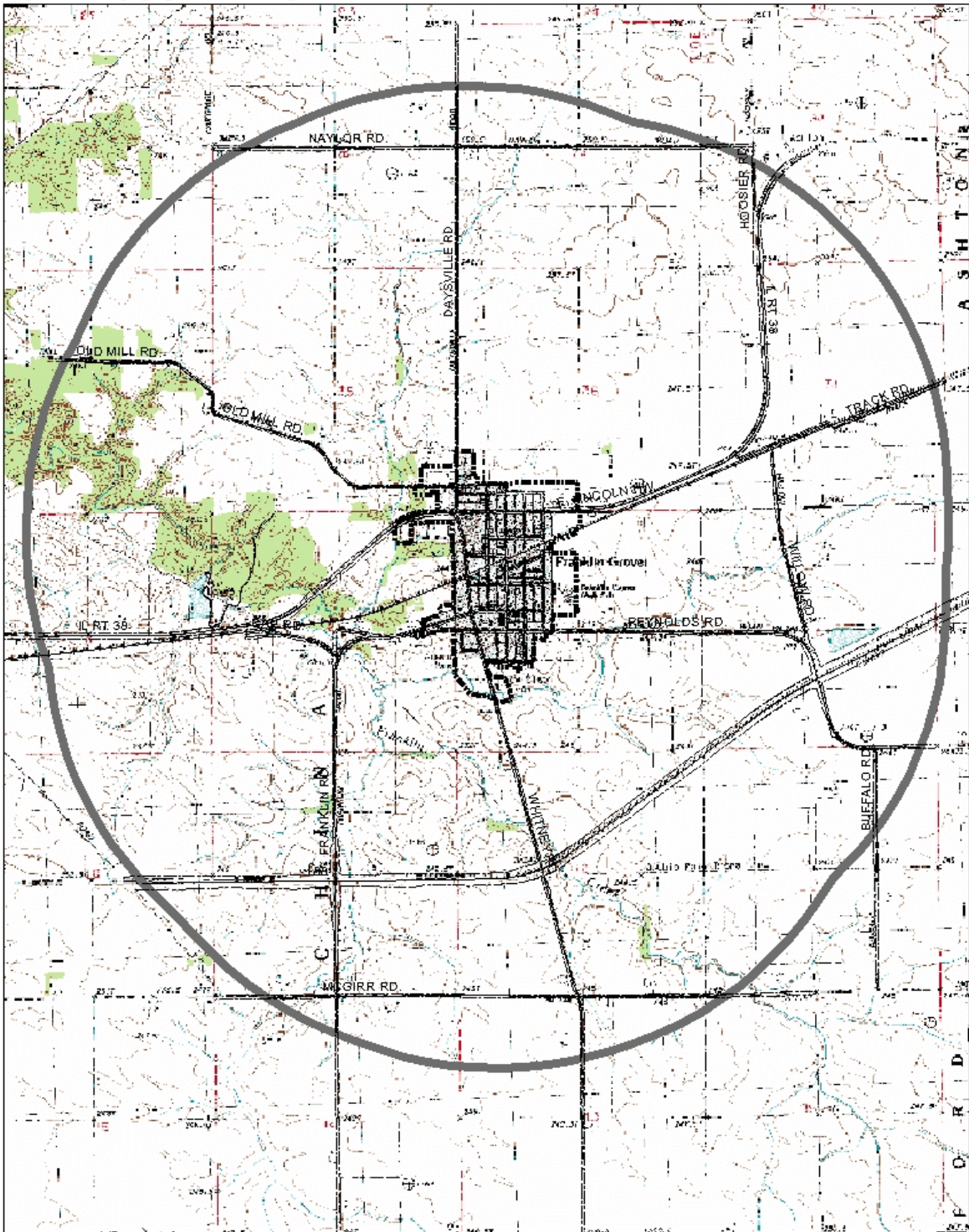
A. Topography and Physiography

The topography of the Village of Franklin Grove planning area is mostly flat to rolling, and is the result of both erosional processes and irregularities in the bedrock surface, which have influenced the total drift thickness, as well as the actions of several glacial advances that crossed the County during the Pleistocene Epoch. The two glacial ages of particular importance to the physiographic development of the planning area and the region in general were the Illinois Episode and the more recent Wisconsin Episode, which ended approximately 10,000 years ago.

Elevations in the Village of Franklin Grove planning area range from 846.4' above mean sea level (MSL) to 718.5' MSL. The lowest elevations in the planning area are in the Franklin Creek valley. The highest elevations in the planning area are found approximately 0.9 mile north/northeast of the Village. Elevations within the Village range from approximately 787' MSL to 817' MSL.

Physiographically, the Village of Franklin Grove planning area is located in the Rock River Hill Country of the Till Plains Section of the Central Lowlands Province. The Central Lowlands Province is principally the State of Illinois. This area is characterized by its rolling hills, thin glacial drift and narrow valleys. The Rock River Hill Country Division is divided into two sections; Freeport and Oregon. Two distinct bedrock types are recognized in these section, dolomite and limestone under the Freeport Section and sandstone under the Oregon Section. These different bedrock types have a significant effect on the resultant flora and natural communities of the two sections.

Figure 5.1: Topography in the Village of Franklin Grove and 1.5 Mile Planning Area



B. Soils

Soils in the Village of Franklin Grove and its 1.5 mile planning area are particularly well-suited to agricultural uses. 90% of the soil types identified in the planning area are classified as being "prime farmland", and the remaining 10% are classified as "farmland of statewide importance" (see Figure 5.1, below). "Prime farmland" is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland.

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. More detailed information about the criteria for prime farmland is available at the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For some of the soils identified in the table as prime farmland, measures that overcome a hazard or limitation, such as flooding, wetness, and droughtiness, are needed. Onsite evaluation is needed to determine whether or not the hazard or limitation has been overcome by corrective measures. A recent trend in land use in some areas has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

In some areas, land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland is considered to be "farmland of statewide importance" for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The criteria for defining and delineating farmland of statewide importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (in cooperation with other Federal, State and local agencies), has prepared a soil survey for Lee County. Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in the soil survey areas. They include predictions of soil behavior for selected land uses. The survey highlights soil limitations, improvements needed to overcome the limitations, and the impact of selected land uses on the environment.

Soil surveys are designed for many different users. Farmers, foresters, and agronomists can use the surveys to evaluate the potential of the soil and the management needed for maximum food and fiber production. Planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers can use the survey to plan land use, select sites for construction, and identify special practices needed to ensure proper performance. Conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, wildlife management, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, and enhance the environment.

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet

soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations. These and many other soil properties that affect land use are described in the Lee County Soil Survey. The location of each soil is shown on the detailed soil maps found in the Lee County Soil Survey. Each soil in the survey area is described, and information on specific uses is given. The published soil survey consists of a manuscript and a set of soil maps.

Appendix II of this document contains two reports regarding the soils found in the Village of Franklin Grove and its 1.5 mile planning area: 1) Map Unit Description; and, 2) Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Yields by Map Unit. Many other reports are available in the Lee County Soil Survey.

The following are the soil map units by map symbol, and the corresponding soil map unit name of soils found within the Village of Franklin Grove and its 1.5 mile planning area.

Table 5.1: Soil Types in the Village of Franklin Grove and 1.5 Mile Planning Area

<u>Map Symbol</u>	<u>Map unit name</u>
45A	Denny silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
51A	Muscature silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
68A	Sable silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
86B	Osco silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
86C2	Osco silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
87B	Dickinson sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
93E	Rodman gravelly sandy loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes
102A	La Hogue loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
125A	Selma loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
145C2	Saybrook silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
152A	Drummer silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
152A+	Drummer silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, overwash
171B	Catlin silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
171C2	Catlin silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
198A	Elburn silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
199C2	Plano silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
200A	Orio loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
233B	Birkbeck silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
233C2	Birkbeck silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded

244A	Hartsburg silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
259C2	Assumption silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
280B	Fayette silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
280C2	Fayette silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
332C2	Billett fine sandy loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
355A	Binghampton sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
357B	Vanpetten loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
361D2	Kidder silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded
363D2	Griswold loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded
403D	Elizabeth loam, 10 to 18 percent slopes
403F	Elizabeth loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes
440A	Jasper loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
440B	Jasper loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
440C2	Jasper loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
503C2	Rockton silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
509D	Whalan loam, 10 to 18 percent slopes
509F	Whalan loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes
570B	Martinsville silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
570C2	Martinsville silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
570D	Martinsville silt loam, 10 to 18 percent slopes
618C2	Senachwine silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
618D3	Senachwine clay loam, 10 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded
618F	Senachwine silt loam, 18 to 35 percent slopes
622B	Wyanet silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
622C2	Wyanet silt loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
675B	Greenbush silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes
679B	Blackberry silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes

705A	Buckhart silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
742C2	Dickinson sandy loam, loamy substratum, 5 to 10 percent slopes, eroded
777A	Adrian muck, 0 to 2 percent slopes
802A	Orthents, loamy, nearly level
864	Pits, quarries
865	Pits, gravel
1776A	Comfrey silt loam, undrained, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
3451A	Lawson silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded
8776A	Comfrey loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded
W	Water

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Figure 5.1: Farmland Classification of Soil Types in the Village of Franklin Grove and 1.5 Mile Planning Area

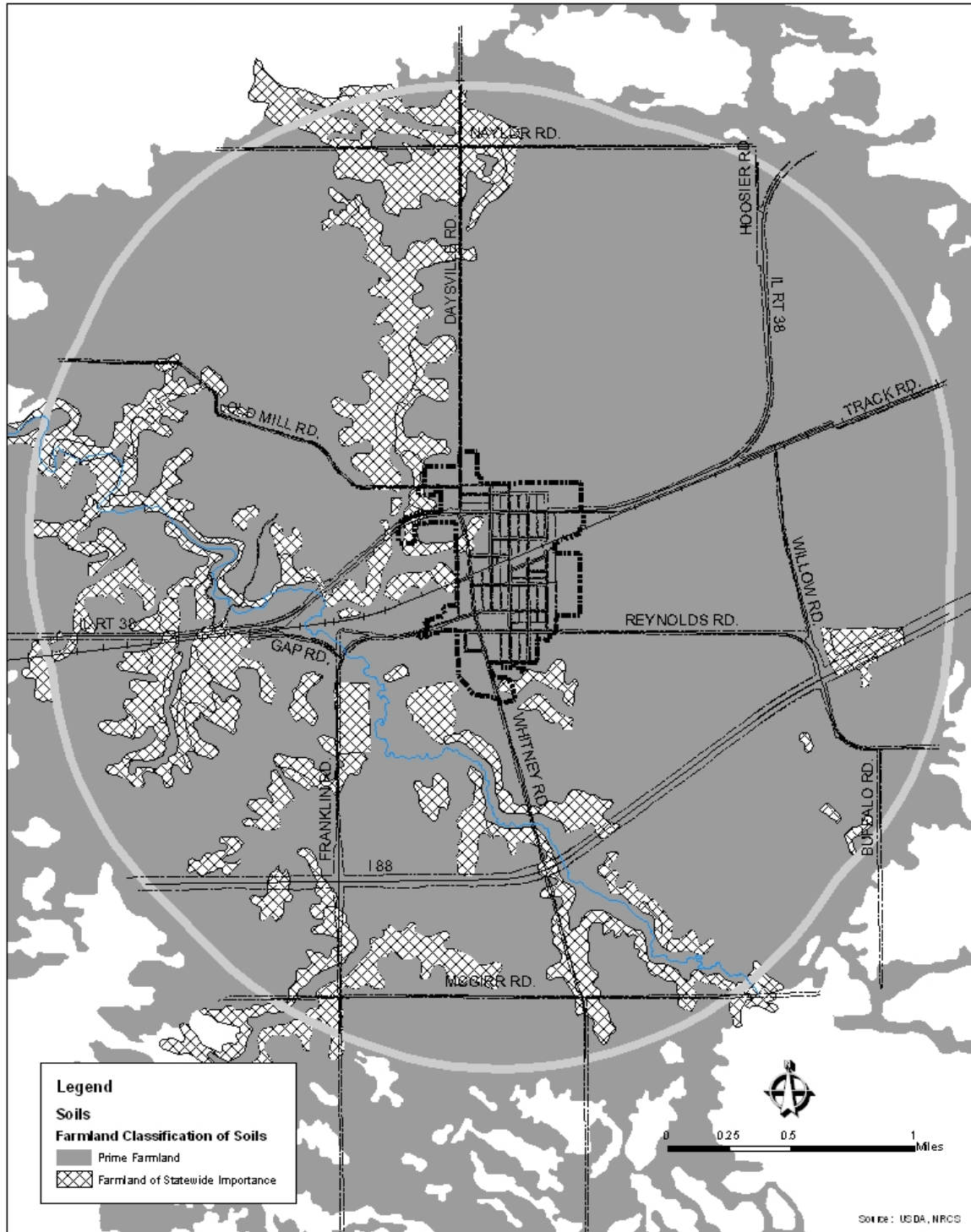
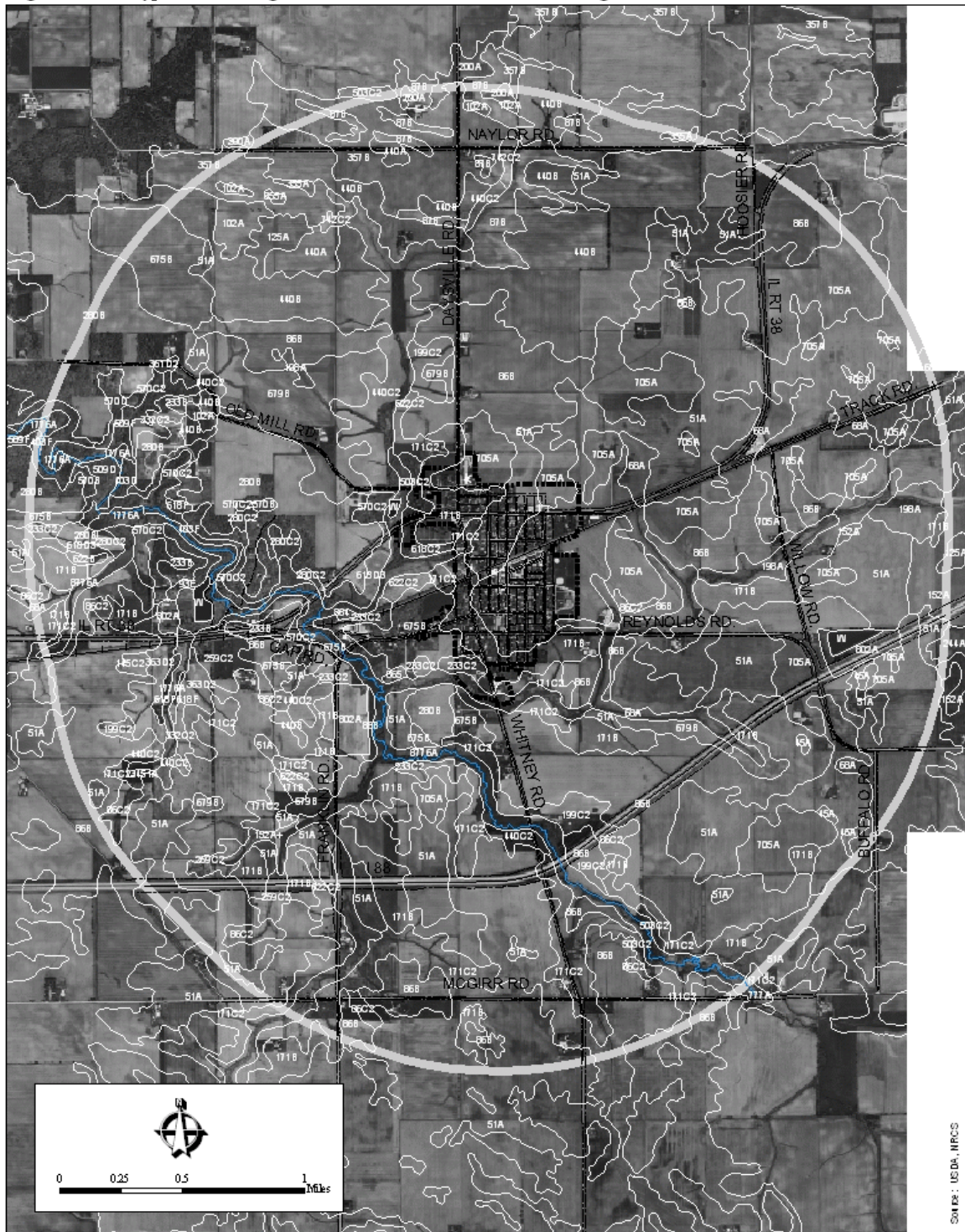


Figure 5.2: Soil Types in the Village of Franklin Grove and 1.5 Mile Planning Area



C. Groundwater

Groundwater is generally plentiful in the Village of Franklin Grove and the surrounding area. According to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s “Source Water Assessment Program Fact Sheet” for Franklin Grove, the Village of Franklin Grove has two public water supply wells. The wells utilize a shallow bedrock aquifer, which is overlain by permeable bedrock and impermeable till, and permeable alluvial deposits. The aquifer utilized is considered confined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and therefore is not considered geologically sensitive.

D. Surface Water

The Village of Franklin Grove is located in the Rock River basin, Rock River sub-basin, and the Franklin Creek watershed.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) annually collects chemical, physical, biological, habitat and toxicity data on rivers and streams, inland lakes, Lake Michigan and groundwater to satisfy reporting requirements found in Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The primary purpose of the Section 305(b) process is to provide for an assessment of the overall water quality conditions of Illinois waters. The IEPA provides the following assessment of the Rock River and Franklin Creek:

**Table 5.2
Stream Quality Data
Streams Within the Village of Franklin Grove Planning Area**

Stream Segment Name	Assessment Unit ID	Designate Uses	Potential Causes of Impairment	Potential Sources of Impairment
Rock River	IL_P-20	Not fully supporting of aquatic life, fish consumption, primary contact, secondary contact and aesthetic quality support.	Mercury, dissolved oxygen, polychlorinated biphenyls, silver, fecal coliform, pH, aquatic algae, other flow regime alterations, and unknown impairments.	Impacts from hydrostructure and flow regulation/modification, dam or impoundment, urban runoff/storm sewers, natural sources, and unknown sources.
Franklin Creek	IL_PK-01	Full overall use, aquatic life, fish consumption, primary contact, secondary contact and aesthetic quality support.	N/A	N/A

Source: Illinois Water Quality Report 2006 (IL Environmental Protection Agency)

Note: Streams/stream segments are not entirely within the Village of Franklin Grove planning area.

E. Wetlands

In general terms, wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface. The single feature that most wetlands share is soil or substrate that is at least periodically saturated with or covered by water. The water creates severe physiological problems for all plants and animals except those that are adapted for life in water or in saturated soil. Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of the year. (*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*)

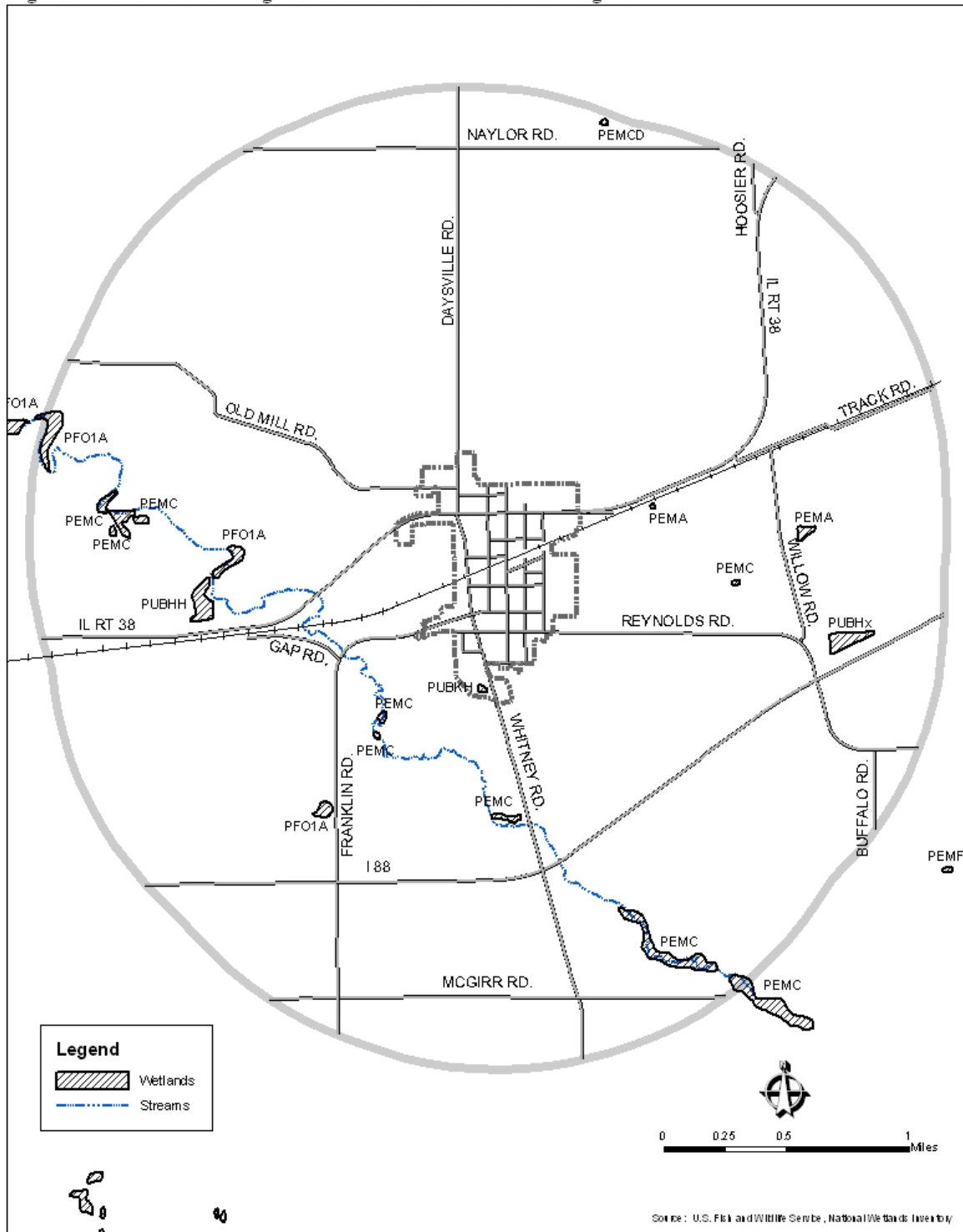
All wetlands found to occur within the Village of Franklin Grove and the 1.5 mile planning area are classified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as “Palustrine” wetlands. The Palustrine System includes all non-tidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, emergents, and mosses or lichens. The Palustrine System was developed to group the vegetated wetlands traditionally called by such names as marsh, swamp, fen, and prairie, which are found throughout the United States. It also includes the small, shallow, permanent or intermittent water bodies often called ponds. Palustrine wetlands may be situated shoreward of lakes, river channels, or estuaries; on river floodplains; in isolated catchments; or on slopes. They may also occur as islands in lakes or rivers.

The only area classified as a wetland within the Village is the sewage treatment ponds. The sewage treatment pond is classified as PUBKH under the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service “Wetland and Deepwater Habitats Classification” system, which translated means, Palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, artificially flooded, permanently flooded wetlands. Wetlands outside the Village limits and within the 1.5 mile planning area are situated primarily within the bottom-lands of and along the banks of the Franklin Creek, within and adjacent to small bodies of water (ponds), as well as within and adjacent to poorly drained depressions, drainageways and swales in agricultural fields.

Figure 5.3 indicates the locations of wetlands within the Village and 1.5 mile planning area. The codes on the map are simply translated as follows:

PEMC:	Freshwater Emergent Wetland
PEMA:	Freshwater Emergent Wetland
PUBHx:	Freshwater Pond
PFO1A:	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
PUBKH:	Freshwater Pond
PUBHH:	Freshwater Pond
PEMCD:	Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Figure 5.3: Wetlands in the Village of Franklin Grove and 1.5 Mile Planning Area



F. Floodplains

There are no mapped floodplains, or “Special Flood Hazard Areas” within the Village of Franklin Grove or its 1.5 mile planning area as indicated on the Lee County Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. However, small streams with no mapped flood plain can still present a flooding hazard to development. Encroachment on flood plains by development, such as structures and fill, reduces the flood-carrying capacity, increases the flood heights and velocities, and increases flood hazards in areas beyond the encroachment itself. Therefore, development in low-lying and/or flood-prone areas, even if not mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area, should be discouraged.

Flood plain lands and adjacent waters combine to form a complex, dynamic physical and biological system found nowhere else. When portions of floodplains are preserved in (or restored to) their natural state, they provide many benefits to both human and natural systems. These benefits range from providing aesthetic pleasure to reducing the number and severity of floods, helping handle stormwater runoff and minimizing non-point water pollution. For example, by allowing floodwater to slow down, sediments settle out, thus maintaining water quality. The natural vegetation filters out impurities and uses excess nutrients. Such natural processes cost far less money than it would take to build facilities to correct flood, stormwater, water quality and other community problems. Natural resources of floodplains fall into three categories: water resources, living resources and societal resources. The following sections describe each category’s natural and beneficial functions.

Natural flood and erosion control

Over the centuries, floodplains develop their own ways to handle flooding and erosion with natural features that provide floodwater storage and conveyance, reduce flood velocities and flood peaks, and curb sedimentation. Natural controls on flooding and erosion help to maintain water quality by filtering nutrients and impurities from runoff, processing organic wastes and moderating temperature fluctuations. These natural controls also contribute to recharging groundwater by promoting infiltration and refreshing aquifers, and by reducing the frequency and duration of low surface flows.

Biologic resources and functions

Floodplains enhance biological productivity by supporting a high rate of plant growth. This helps to maintain biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems. Floodplains provide excellent habitats for fish and wildlife by serving as breeding and feeding grounds. They also create and enhance waterfowl habitats, and help to protect habitats for rare and endangered species.

Societal resources and functions

People benefit from floodplains through the food they provide, the recreational opportunities they afford and the scientific knowledge gained in studying them. Wild and cultivated products are harvested in floodplains, which are enhanced agricultural land made rich by sediment deposits. They provide open space, which may be used to restore and enhance forest lands, or for recreational opportunities or simple enjoyment of their aesthetic beauty. Floodplains provide areas for scientific study and outdoor education. They contain cultural resources such as historic or archaeological sites, and thus provide opportunities for environmental and other kinds of studies. Floodplains can increase a community’s overall quality of life, a role that often has been undervalued. By transforming floodplains from problem areas into value-added assets, the community can improve its quality of life. In Illinois, Chicago’s lakefront, Peoria’s riverfront, Naperville’s Riverwalk, and Lockport’s historic canal district are well-known examples. Parks, bike paths, open spaces, wildlife conservation areas and aesthetic features are important to citizens. Assets like these make the community more appealing to potential employers, investors, residents, property owners and tourists.

G. Natural Areas and Open Spaces

Natural areas and open space provide Franklin Grove with recreational opportunities, resource protection and aesthetic beauty, and are an important part of the Village's identity. See the Utilities and Community Facilities Element for a complete listing of parks and open spaces within the Village of Franklin Grove.

As stated earlier in this chapter, nearly 93% of the Village's 1.5 mile extra-territorial planning area, or 8,705.9 acres, is in agricultural or agriculturally-related use, which is open space. Much of this open space is natural area, particularly within riparian corridors.

There are no Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Sites, no "Ecologically Significant" stream corridors, and no known unique natural areas within the Village or the 1.5 mile planning area.

As stated and briefly discussed in Chapter 4 (Utilities and Community Facilities), a portion of the Franklin Creek State Natural Area is located within the Village of Franklin Grove 1.5 mile planning area. The park contains a 198-acre nature preserve which is an outstanding and diverse natural area in a uniquely beautiful setting. High, rocky bluffs shelter a perennial creek and create an environment in which a rich flora and fauna thrive. The preserve represents the initial acquisition by the State of Illinois in the area and, therefore, has been the cornerstone upon which Franklin Creek State Natural Area is built. With its dedication as a nature preserve in 1970, it became the 24th nature preserve in the State of Illinois.

The geology of Franklin Creek is of considerable interest as the valley is deep enough to expose three distinct rock strata. New Richmond sandstone, a soft rock of Lower Ordovician age, is exposed at the bottom of the gorge. This is the oldest rock formation anywhere in the state, dating back to 500 million years ago. Above the New Richmond sandstone lies the Shakopee formation, consisting of sandy dolomite and also being of Lower Ordovician age. This strata is capped with St. Peter sandstone, which is of Middle Ordovician age, approximately 460 million years old. Away from the outcrops along the creek, which have been exposed by erosion, the bedrock is covered with a deep till from the Wisconsin glaciation. Finally, this is mantled with a layer of loess from which the upland soil is developed.

The occurrence of vegetation is influenced by soil characteristics, topography and moisture. Low lying areas along the creek bed support a bottomland forest dominated by silver maple and hackberry. Slippery elm and Kentucky coffee tree also occur here. Ravines support mesic (intermediate between wet and dry) upland forest characterized by sugar maple and basswood. Paw paw, and understory shrub of more southerly distribution, is found here. On drier sites, a dry-mesic forest of white oak, red oak, black oak, shagbark hickory, and hop hornbeam is found.

A small glacial drift hill prairie remnant is present in the preserve. Indian grass and tall dropseed are characteristic plants of this habitat. Other prairie species present include false toadflax, flowering spurge, and hoary puccoon.

High quality, undisturbed cliff communities are present on the bedrock outcrops. Canada yew, an evergreen shrub of more northern woods, is common here. Bladdernut, bishop's-cap, and shooting star are also found here, as well as several species of ferns.

The forested areas provide habitat for many species of non-game wildlife. Woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers are among the breeding birds on the site. The area provides critical stop-over habitat for many more species during migration. Great blue herons and green herons have been observed here. Mammals utilizing the area include raccoons, chipmunks, gray and fox squirrels, beaver, and deer. Shrews, white-footed mice, weasels, and fox may also be seen. Nineteen species of fish have been recorded from Franklin Creek.

H. Wildlife

There is little area within the Village of Franklin Grove considered suitable as wildlife habitat. Scattered woodlands and fence rows exist throughout the Village of Franklin Grove's 1.5 mile extraterritorial planning area, which provide habitat for various wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, gray and fox squirrels, cotton tail rabbit, woodchucks, and possibly badgers. These woodlands and fence rows also serve as important islands of habitat for migratory birds. As stated above, the Franklin Creek State Natural area is rich in wildlife.

Section 5.4 Cultural Resources

Cultural and historic resources often help link the past with the present and can give a community a sense of place or identity. These resources can include historic buildings and structures along with ancient, historic and archeological sites.

Many of Franklin Grove's historic structures have been lost to time, accidental fires, and the demolition crew, although there are some fine examples of late-nineteenth century residential architecture, and the commercial downtown has historical and cultural value. The Franklin Grove Cemetery is an important cultural and genealogical resources, serving as records of past inhabitants of the area.

Early trails were important to the settlement and development of Lee County. Many trails that later became wagon roads and stage routes were originally Indian trails. As settlers moved to the area, many trails were blazed across the County to make travel and marketing of agricultural products easier and safer.

The timber groves in the area are also important cultural and historic resources. The groves served as important resting places for travelers and sources of raw materials and the necessities of life in the early settlement days, as they provided sources of shelter, lumber, fire wood, water, and game for food. The groves later became recreational areas for community, church and family festivals and picnics.

As mentioned and detailed in Chapter 4 (Utilities and Community Facilities), the Lincoln Highway/H.I. Lincoln Building and the Chaplin Creek Historic Village are significant cultural resource in the Village of Franklin Grove and its planning area that help link the past to the present.

Section 5.5 Issues Identified by the Planning Commission

- A. Protection of groundwater, the source of Village drinking water, is very important.
- B. Park and open space areas within Franklin Grove are extremely important to the lifestyles of the Village residents, but also to the image of the Village of Franklin Grove projected to the region.
- C. Agriculture is an important natural resource to the Village and region.
- D.
- E.

Section 5.6 Goals, Objectives, Policies

A. Goal

Preserve and protect those features that reflect the unique history, natural resources and character of the Village of Franklin Grove.

B. Objectives

1. Work with other state and local units of government to protect the Village's groundwater resources.
2. Work to maintain Franklin Creek as an environmental and recreational asset to the Village.
3. Ensure an adequate supply of open space within the Village.
4. Preserve historic sites and structures within the Village and the 1.5 mile planning area.
- 5.
- 6.

C. Policies

1. Establish a wellhead protection ordinance to protect the Village wells from potential sources of contamination.
2. Maintain and manage park and open spaces within the Village to retain their cultural, recreational and aesthetic qualities.
3. Adopt and enforce regulations to protect the flood plain areas of the Village from development.
4. Identify and make public more aware of historic sites and structures within the Village and the 1.5 mile planning area.
- 5.
- 6.